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LD161240 [Editorial Report]

Gulf Conflict

Tanker Attacks—KUNA announced that the U.S.-flagged Kuwaiti oil tanker *Sea Isle City* was hit at dawn in Kuwaiti waters by an Iranian missile injuring the tanker's captain and 17 crewmembers.

The Kuwaiti Cabinet held an emergency meeting, KUNA added, reporting that "appropriate steps and measures to be taken" in regard to the incident were discussed.

For its part, Iran acknowledged the attack on the tanker "by a missile" in an IRNA report on President 'Ali Khamene'i's Friday prayers speech. The Iranian president also noted according to IRNA that "no one has yet claimed responsibility" for the attack.

As for the 15 October attack on the U.S.-owned Liberian-registered tanker *Sungari*, Kuwait radio reported that the foreign minister sent "urgent" messages to the heads of the Arab League, GCC, United Nations, and ICO informing them of the "fresh Iranian aggression."

Iraqi Air Raids—An Iraqi military spokesman announced in a statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio that Iraqi aircraft had launched successful raids on two "large maritime targets near the Iranian coast."

In another development, a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses reported that "scores of our planes" launched a "violent" air raid on Iranian oil industry targets.

While the communique noted that all Iraqi planes returned safely to base, Tehran radio announced that an Iraqi plane was downed by antiaircraft fire over Khuzestan Province. An Iraqi spokesman cited by INA denied the allegation.

War of the Cities—A War Information Headquarters statement broadcast by Tehran radio warned residents of Iraqi cities that they had 24 hours to evacuate areas around "military, economic, and industrial installations in all Iraqi cities, except the four safe cities."

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati sent a message to the UN secretary general decrying Iraqi attacks on Iranian civilian centers which have resulted in 132 deaths among the civilian population in the past 2 months, according to a report carried by Tehran radio.

Stinger, Scud-B Missiles—IRGC Commander Mohsen Rezai'e announced in an interview with *Tehran Times* cited by XINHUA that Iran has access to U.S.-made Stinger missiles "in the very heart of Washington," thereby contradicting reports that the missiles were obtained from Afghan rebels. Elsewhere in the interview, Rezai'e said that Iran is manufacturing its own Scud-B missiles, a Soviet-made surface-to-surface missile.

USSR Contacts—The Iranian ambassador in Moscow met with Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov 14 October to discuss recent developments in the Gulf, Tehran radio noted.

Iran

Aqazadeh to USSR—Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh departed for talks in the Soviet Union, Tehran radio reported, adding that discussions will include finalizing agreements on oil and natural gas pipelines between the two countries.

USSR Flights—IRNA announced that the Soviet airline Aeroflot resumed direct flights between Moscow and Tehran as of 15 October.

Syria-Iran

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' reaffirmed Syrian support for Iran in his meeting with Iranian Deputy Premier 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri, IRNA reported. Damascus radio noted that Prime Minister 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm also met with the Iranian official.

Kuwait-USSR

Oil Minister 'Ali al-Khalifa has signed an agreement in Moscow to create a Kuwaiti-Soviet commission on economic and scientific-technical cooperation, TASS reported, adding that the commission will deal with bilateral trade cooperation in the oil industry and other fields.

After signing the agreement, Al-Khalifa held a press conference in which he described the Kuwaiti and Soviet positions as "close or identical on many matters of international affairs and bilateral relations," TASS announced.

Egypt-USSR

After meeting with President Husni Mubarak, Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov stated that the two had discussed bilateral relations, the international situation, the convocation of an international conference on the Middle East, and the Iran-Iraq war, Cairo radio reported. MENA noted that the minister of state for foreign affairs also met with Vorontsov.

OPEC

OPEC Conference President Alhaji Rilwanu Lukman had "extremely fruitful discussions" and found a "very positive and cooperative atmosphere" among the Gulf

leaders visited by the three-man OPEC ministerial committee in its recent tour, OPECNA announced. The report added that the second phase of the committee's tour will begin in the second week of November.

Israel

Security forces have uncovered a "large terrorist network" in the Gaza Strip and arrested some 50 local residents on suspicion of belonging to the Islamic Jihad organization, IDF radio announced.

Lebanon

Demonstrations—Beirut radio reported peaceful demonstrations in Beirut, Sidon, and other parts of Lebanon "to demand a quick end to the deterioration of the economic, financial, and living conditions in the country."

Ja'ja' Assassination Attempt—The Voice of National Resistance radio reported that "highly placed security sources in East Beirut" have revealed that Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' escaped an assassination attempt 4 October.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Issues Statement on Israeli 'Aggression'

LD132315 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2020 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Text] Jeddah, 13 Oct (SPA)—The ICO today issued a communique in which it denounced the continuing escalation of the Zionist enemy's terrorist policy against the sons of the Palestinian people, its encroachment on Islamic sanctities and its transgression against worshippers, which is a flagrant violation of the Islamic faith, an offense against the world's 1 billion Muslims, and a violation of all international charters, laws, and norms.

This was stated in a communique issued by ICO Secretary General Sharifuddin Pirzada following the Zionist settlers' storming of the holy Al-'Aqsa Mosque with the help of the Israeli occupation authorities, as well as the feverish situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and the escalation of aggression against the Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon.

The ICO also condemned all sorts of aggression against the Palestinian people, who faced a base conspiracy to rout them, uproot their Palestinian identity, and erase their just cause, and pointed out that dozens of persons were martyred or injured in the holy Mosque's arena as well as in the rest of the Palestinian territories by the Zionist enemy.

The statement reiterated the Islamic nation's absolute solidarity with the Palestinian people and its unrestricted support for their legimate struggle against the appalling Zionist occupation.

The statement solemnly saluted the uprising of the stalwarts on the Palestinian territories who reject injustice and occupation and who are throwing the motto of God is greater in the face of the arrogant Zionist enemy.

In his statement, the ICO secretary general called on all countries of the world and the United States in particular, to continue to protect peace and security and to put an end to the Zionist organized state terrorism against the sons of the Palestinian people and against the Islamic sacred places.

The statement also called on the Amal Movement to go for a constructive dialogue in order to preserve the Palestinian cause, the Lebanese cause, the unity of Lebanon, and in order to work toward evicting the Zionist enemy from south Lebanon and from all the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories.

The ICO secretary general concluded his statement by stressing that peace and security in the Middle East will not be achieved except through the fulfillment of the proven rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to return and to self-determination, and to establish their own independent state with Jerusalem as its capital under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO.

Islamic World League Conference in Mecca Ends

Blames Iran for Hajj Riots

LD151626 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] The third international Islamic World League conference ended in Mecca today. A communique holds Iran's Khomeyni regime solely responsible for the riots, sedition, and violence that took place in Mecca during the last hajj. The communique describes these acts as typical of the behavior of the current Iranian regime based on terrorism and the (?violation) of the sanctity of Islamic blood. It supports the legitimate measures taken by the Kingdom to uproot sedition and put out the fires of evil. God forgives and Muslims give thanks.

The preachers and ulema who took part in the conference declared their support to the Kingdom on the basis of learned proof, jurisprudent judgment, and intellectual argument. The communique calls on the governinent of the Kingdom to bar any Iranian or non-Iranian group which does not respect the sanctity of the hajj or does not adhere to the regulations of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which provides general security for pilgrims. It also urges the Kingdom to take measures to prevent political demonstrations and rioting, which disturbs the Muslims' pilgrimage.

Issues Communique on Hajj

LD151929 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1425 GMT 15 Oct 87

["Islamic World League Communique"—SPA headline]

[Excerpt] Mecca, 15 Oct (SPA)—[Passage omitted] The following is the text of the communique: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, praise be to the only God. Prayers and blessing be upon the last prophet. On 31 July Muslims everywhere were shocked with an unprecedented and significant event in the history of the hajj. Khomeyni's followers, who were supposed to come to Al-Hajj to worship God, planned a noisy march, which they deliberately turned into a riot and disturbance and then into aggression aimed at Saudi security men and pilgrims of all races, who happened to be there at the same time.

It would have been possible to explain that what had happened was merely an act carried out independently by a group of Iranians, without any authorization from the Iranian leadership in Tehran had it not been for:

—Khomeyni's pamphlets issued prior to the march, which stirred up evil and sedition—pamphlets whose words and meaning were a flagrant instigation aimed at turning the hajj into an arena of fierce struggle.

—The premeditated planning that was obvious in the manners, methods, and moves of those who participated in the march.

—The Iranian Government's ideological, political, and propaganda adoption of seditious and violent acts against the hajj.

The above-mentioned prove that the Iranian Government planned for the act, endorsed it, and is proud of it.

Consequently the ulema and preachers, who are meeting in holy Mecca during the third international Islamic World League conference, have decided:

1. The Iranian Government, under the leadership of Khomeyni, solely shoulders the responsibility for the repercussions of the riots, disturbances, sedition, and violence in the hajj. It solely bears the responsibility for the outrage in God's holy mosque and the dread caused to some believers, male and female, who made the pilgrimage from all over the Islamic world.

2. Such a vile and unjust act was part of the current Iranian Government's behavior. This government is accustomed to terrorism and a thirst for Muslim blood and has been since it was established.

3. No one has the right to interpret the hajj obligatory divine duty and make his interpretation the basis for making the hajj arena one for political struggle or battles among factions.

4. The measures taken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to quell the sedition and to contain the fires of wickedness were legitimate, for which God will reward it and for which Muslims are thankful.

5. The unanimity among Muslim leaders, theoreticians, and peoples to condemn the Iranian Government is based on:

a. What has been wholeheartedly, accepted by all Muslims, male and female, to exalt holy Mecca, holy months, and the hajj rites.

b. The clarity of facts and events witnessed by pilgrims and announced by the Saudi authorities.

6. The ulema and preachers, announcing this clearly and sincerely, are determined to stand by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the basis of scientific proof, jurisprudent judgment, and intellectual argument as it protects the pilgrimage path and rites, defends Islamic sanctities, and repels those who try to violate them.

7. In response to God's words, "And fear a trial that will surely not smite in particular the evildoers," and because of the sedition that occurred during the pilgrimage by those incited by the Khomeyni government to commit the heinous acts, the ulema participating in the conference, motivated by a firm belief in the sanctity of the two holy mosques and the pilgrimage, instigated by the wish to preserve the safety of pilgrims and the pilgrimage and by the wish to preserve Muslim unity and solidarity, call on the Saudi Government to "firmly" stop any "Iranian or non-Iranian" group that does not adhere to the sanctity of the pilgrimage and that does not adhere to the Saudi regulations providing public security for the pilgrims and organizing their movements and places of residence during the rites, in the streets, and at entrances and exits of the Kingdom.

The ulema also call for adopting deterrent measures to stop political demonstrations and disturbances that disturb the Muslim pilgrimage.

Algeria

Taleb Ibrahimi Interviewed on Arab Issues

JN131736 AL-SHARIQAH AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 11 Oct 87 p 13

[Interview with Foreign Affairs Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi by Thurayya 'Asi in New York on 10 October]

[Text] *Al-Khalij*: Let us begin with your visit to Tehran 3 weeks ago. We noticed that it followed the Saudi defense minister's visit to Algeria. Is your visit within the framework of the Algerian mediation, which started at the very beginning of the war, but was suspended following the plane crash of the late minister Ben Yahya, or is it within another framework?

Taleb Ibrahimi: There has been a long-standing invitation from the Iranian Government. However, we responded to the invitation only after consulting the brothers in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait and following the visit to Algeria of brother Tariq 'Aziz. We discussed this issue with them and found them very understanding of the visit's objectives. They also said they will support it.

Our visit was not so much mediation, as Algerian good offices to attain a peaceful settlement of this painful war.

We in Algeria believe that the existence of an Arab bridge with Iran serves Arab causes. This has been our point of view from the beginning. Algeria has been seeking a peaceful solution since the beginning of the war.

The results of the visit were linked to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar's visit because the entire talks dealt with Security Council Resolution No 598 and how to implement it. We encourage the UN secretary general's endeavors and we believe that thanks to international efforts a peaceful solution to this war may be attained.

Al-Khalij: Does Algeria believe that there is a possiblity of implementing Resolution No. 598?

Taleb Ibrahimi: The important thing is to first achieve a cease-fire in any form whatsoever. I want to say that a positive cease-fire will have a positive impact worldwide, even on Iranian public opinion. This will be followed by the comprehensive implementation of all the provisions of the resolution.

Al-Khalij: What do you have to say about the evolution of the UN Security Council's stand on Resolution No 598? Do you believe that there is any chance of imposing sanctions on Iran?

Taleb Ibrahimi: We understood that the UN Security Council members believe that Iran's official reply allows some latitude for the enhancement of international action to implement this resolution, which enjoys the unanimous support of the international community.

From this premise, I believe that the chances of making Iran join the peace process remain good, so long as the dialogue continues. Those calling for the imposition of sanctions on Iran have a good case, if this method serves the objective of attaining peace. But it is wiser to pursue other efforts if this method is doubtful. Everybody agrees on the need to implement the resolution. That is what we are all trying to achieve. I hope this constructive stand will not be misunderstood.

Al-Khalij: What do you think of the Iranian idea to link an undeclared cease-fire to the formation of a committee to investigate which party is responsible for the war? Does this represent a step forward or is it an attempt to bypass the UN Security Council and a maneuver to gain time?

Taleb Ibrahimi: God alone can judge intentions. It seems that the decision makers in this respect have deduced from the details of the official Iranian reply that Tehran is now using new language in line with the peace process I mentioned earlier. That is why judging deeds rather than intentions will be more beneficial. As I said previously, ending the war between the brothers must be given priority.

Al-Khalij: Will Algeria attend the emergency Arab summit in Amman? Does it have reservations about a one-topic agenda, the Gulf war?

Taleb Ibrahimi: The answer to this question lies in Algeria's positive contribution to the Arab League meeting in Tunis. Those who attended the meeting know that the discussion revolved around the date, venue, and agenda. An agreement was first reached on the date and venue.

A united Arab stand vis-a-vis the international conference for peace in the Middle East, in addition to the Iraq-Iran war, which is at the top of events, was suggested as an agenda. If the Arab leaders meet, they must produce a united stand on the international symposium, which has drawn much attention. It is important for the Arabs to define their stand on the nature of this symposium, the participants, and the expected objectives.

Al-Khalij: In your address to the UN General Assembly, you touched on this issue in detail. Is there an integral Algerian program that you will present to the summit?

Taleb Ibrahimi: In my speech to the General Assembly, I noted that Algeria believes that the international conference will be useless if it does not deal with the basic issue, that is, the Palestinians' problem. Out of these intuitive dimensions, we in Algeria believe that the

second point deals with the kind of participation. If we proceed from the principle that the Palestinian cause is the essence of the Middle East issue, we should enable the Palestinians to attend this symposium as a party with the same rights and duties as the other participants.

With regard to the objective of the conference, an independent Palestinian state should be reached. The issue of the Palestinian peoples' legitimate rights and their right to self-determination and repatriation to their homeland, is among the axioms that are required from this conference.

If the conference turns into a series of bilateral negotiations between Israel and neighboring Arab countries, the conference will then be distant from the Palestinian cause and from the essence of the Middle East crisis.

Al-Khalij: Let us move to the Arab Maghreb. Libyan officials say that in November confederation unity with Algeria will be announced. What is your comment on this?

Taleb Ibrahimi: I commented on this in my speech at the UN General Assembly. The concept of an Arab Maghreb is not new. Twenty-five years after Algeria's independence, the Algerian political leadership believes that it is time we built a new force stemming from the treaty of fraternity and reconciliation linking us with Tunisia and Mauritania.

With the expected entry of Libya [into the treaty], the door will remain open for Morocco's entry once there are signs of the Sahara issue being resolved. This door will also remain open for the Western Sahara, if the independence of this country is affirmed by a referendum on Saharan self-determination.

Therefore, after the GCC idea, the concept of an Arab Maghreb is a step toward the desired Arab unity, which can be achieved by future generations. Our generation should achieve regional cooperation and political coordination in the Gulf, the Nile Valley, and the Arab Maghreb. These geographical groups are preparation for a comprehensive Arab unity.

We believe that the idea of the Arab Maghreb is a very positive one. However, the obstacles to the achievement of this objective are known. If we cooperate in the first stage, the four countries can help the Saharans and Moroccans reach a peaceful solution.

Al-Khalij: How are Algerian-Moroccan relations after the border meeting under Saudi auspices 4 months ago?

Taleb Ibrahimi: We are pleased to note for the first time that there is an interest by the Arab east in the worries and concerns of the Arab Maghreb. In the past, we noted a continuous concern with the worries and concerns of the Arab east by the Arab Maghreb. The mere existence of an initiative by the Arab east recognizing the danger of the war between Saharans and Moroccans is a sign of good intentions. We still have to see the results.

The peace plan for the Western Sahara is well known, but unfortunately it was not adopted at an Arab level. Perhaps the Africans are more aware of the dangers of this war. That is why we see an explicit peace plan emerging from OAU Resolution No. 104. This resolution calls for a dialogue between the two warring parties, the Saharans and Moroccans, in order to attain a cease-fire and hold a referendum, any referendum, that will not yield to military or other pressures.

We regret to say that Morocco withdrew from the OAU following this resolution. As such, it is difficult to reach a solution when one of the two parties is absent. For that reason, the issue was transferred to the Nonaligned Movement and then to the United Nations. Recently, the UN secretary general was entrusted with implementation of the UN resolutions, in cooperation with the OAU chairman.

In our opinion, a major obstacle remains which must be removed before a referendum can be held in which the Saharan people will freely express their opinion. This obstacle is the Moroccan administration and armies. There are approximately 200,000 Saharans. We find 200,000 Moroccan soldiers facing them. This means that there will be a Moroccan soldier behind each Saharan voter. There will be a gun aimed at each of the voters. What is the value of such a referendum?

That's why we believe that the major obstacle facing the UN secretary general's mission consists of the Moroccan armies and administration. The referendum the international community wants to hold in accordance with UN yardsticks will not take place so long as the problem of the Moroccan Army and administration, which are currently on Saharan soil, remains unsolved.

This is with respect to the Western Sahara. Algeria has been using every means since the outbreak of this war to prevent it from spreading to other areas. We are also doing our best to prevent the big powers from interfering in the region, as this will be detrimental to its interests. We try to solve problems within the framework of our organization, the OAU, and good offices, such as King Fahd's initiative to attain a solution between the brother Moroccans and Saharans.

Al-Khalij: What about your efforts to improve relations between the PLO and Syria?

Taleb Ibrahim: Unfortunately, we Arabs, even in our press, have forgotten that Israel is the real enemy. We have entered into marginal disputes intended to make us forget who the real enemy is. We firmly believe that Syria is part of the Arab nation and a confrontation state. The

success of the Palestinian cause is conditioned on the PLO'S good relations with all Arab countries, particularly the confrontation states.

Thus, Algeria always seeks the establishment of good relations between the PLO and all the neighbors of occupied Palestine. Our efforts continue in this respect. We believe that the Algiers PNC session is a positive step, that must be followed by another step, that of the Arab summit.

We cannot help the Palestinians unless they tell us exactly what they want. Once this is known, the Arabs will try to hammer out some kind of an agreement, as was the case in Fes. However, the Fes plan needs a mechanism for implementation. I believe that at the next Arab summit, we will emerge with a united concept of the international conference and the peace process in the Middle East.

Al-Khalij: In your opinion, what is the reality of differences between the Syrians and Palestinians?

Taleb Ibrahimi: You would best ask the brothers. We seek to improve relations between them. If you want answers, ask about Algeria's relations with others.

Al-Khalij: But you are engaged in mediation between the two parties?

Taleb Ibrahimi: God willing, the forthcoming summit will solve all problems.

Al-Khalij: Your relations with the Lebanese president are special. You also received Maronite Patriarch Sfayr. Your relations with other Lebanese parties are good. This is in addition to Shaykh Mahdi Shams al-Din's recent visit to Algeria. Are you playing a role in bringing about a rapprochement among the Lebanese parties?

Taleb Ibrahimi: We have good or special relations with all Lebanese parties. We tried to reach a national reconciliation, and at the same time maintain Lebanon's sovereignty and Arabism, through a dialogue with the politicians. However, we discovered that dialogue with the men of religion may lead to some success. Therefore, Patriarch Sfayr and Shaykh Mahdi Shams al-Din visited us. Other religious leaders will also visit us, God willing. However, I stress that our objective has always been to achieve a national reconciliation.

We believe that since Lebanon experienced 30 years of tranquility and prosperity under a certain constitution, that constitution reflected an economic and social reality. I believe that the Lebanese reality has changed over the years and there must be a new means to reflect that reality. All parties have to make the necessary concessions to frame a new document reflecting the new Lebanese reality and return Lebanon to the state of tranquility and prosperity it experienced.

Al-Khalij: President al-Jumayyil visited Algiers recently to reach a new formula for Algeria's mediation between the Lebanese leadership and Syria. What do you think of the speech by President al-Jumayyil [at the UN General Assembly]?

Taleb Ibrahimi: We believe that the first stage must be one of national reconciliation. Lebanese legitimacy is strong if it reflects the will of the Lebanese people. This is the first stage. It is a stage of dialogue among the Lebanese parties to reach a reconciliatory solution, before launching a dialogue between the Lebanese and the Palestinians or the Lebanese and the Syrians.

Anyone concerned with the interests of the Lebanese must work to achieve national reconciliation and a new constitution reflecting reality.

Al-Khalij: I want to pause on a point raised by President al-Jumayyil's speech, when he referred to the alien presence in Lebanon; he compared the Israeli occupation to the Syrian presence. What do you think of this?

Taleb Ibrahimi: We believe that the mass media do not talk about the Israeli role. There is no doubt that Israel played a prominent part in destroying Lebanon, because Lebanon embodies the example of a multi-sectarian state that the Palestinians want to follow.

Therefore, the best way to kill the Palestinian ideal is to remove the model embodying it. However, it is regrettable that the world mass media concentrates on the Palestinian and Syrian presence. They ignore the major danger threatening and destroying Lebanon, which is the Israeli presence.

Al-Khalij: Do you believe that a Lebanese national accord can take place in light of the present state of affairs?

Taleb Ibrahimi: This depends on the determination of the Lebanese people. If the Lebanese rise above sectarian considerations, I believe that human will must prevail. We Arabs must do our best to prevent external factors, primarily Israel, from influencing us. However, the most important thing is for the Lebanese themselves to rise above sectarian and party considerations, even above personal ambitions and aspirations, and cherish Lebanon with a national spirit that is free from any foreign elements.

If the Lebanese politicians and all the Lebanese men of religion work with this national spirit, then I believe Lebanon can achieve such a national accord.

Al-Khalij: Through your endeavors and efforts in the Lebanese arena, do you believe that there is such a determination?

Taleb Ibrahimi: I believe many have such a determination. I do not say all have it. This determination must be nurtured.

Al-Khalij: Do your efforts to settle the Lebanese crisis take into consideration the Syrian role in Lebanon?

Taleb Ibrahimi: It is necessary for those who want to achieve something in Lebanon to not ignore the reality of the Syrian role. This is a reality. We must take into consideration the Syrian role in Lebanon when we speak about Lebanon.

Al-Khalij: Does Algeria still have a role to play in releasing the hostages in Lebanon? We know that Algeria contributed to the release of the last French hostage early this year.

Taleb Ibrahimi: We contribute to all humanitarian issues. However, we believe that secrecy is required if results are to be obtained. We are not seeking publicity and we do not want praise. The issue calls for complete secrecy.

Al-Khalij: It has been reported that last April Algeria counseled Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna] to suspend operations in Europe, and that European countries and the U.S. thanked Algeria for this. Is this true?

Taleb Ibrahimi: What one can say here, is that Algeria's stand on terrorism is known. However, we do not want the international community to be interested in only individual terrorism, and condone state terrorism, which is being carried out against the Arabs and in South Africa. We also do not want national liberation movements in the Arab world, and outside it, to be quelled in the name of combatting terrorism. One must distinguish between the two.

Al-Khalij: The last question: Do you expect Syria to not attend the Arab summit in Jordan?

Taleb Ibrahimi: No. God willing, the summit will convene with all attending.

Al-Khalij: Do you expect any changes in the summit's agenda, as Syria has requested?

Taleb Ibrahimi: We are doing our best to have all the Arab countries attend, God willing.

Egypt

USSR's Vorontsov Holds Talks With Mubarak

NC151339 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 15 Oct (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, at the Presidency this afternoon. The meeting was also attended by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; Vladimir Polyakov, director of the Soviet Foreign Ministry's Middle East Department; Gennadiy Kirillovich Zhuravlev, Soviet ambassador to Egypt; and Salah Bassyuni, Egypt's ambassador to the Soviet Union.

Vorontsov Comments on Talks

NC151600 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] After his meeting with President Husni Mubarak today, Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, stated that he had conveyed greetings from Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev to President Mubarak on his reelection for a second term of office. He said that he had discussed several important issues with the president, including bilateral relations, which are progressing rapidly, the international situation, the convocation of an international conference on peace in the Middle East, and the Iraq-Iran war.

He added that he had informed President Mubarak, on behalf of Gorbachev, of the Soviet leader's assessment of disarmament, the current international situation, and the expected agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union on intermediate and short-range missiles in Europe.

On his forthcoming visit to Jordan and Israel [as heard], Vorontsov said that the purpose of his visit is to hold consultations with countries concerned with the Middle East crisis and prepare for an international conference on peace in the Middle East as soon as possible.

Responding to a question on the Soviet Union's stand on the U.S. presence in Gulf waters and the Gulf war, he said that the United States is try to act on its own. Therefore, it is amassing large number of troops. He added that Moscow believes in the importance of collective action in which all countries of the world take part. He said that it is better to take the necessary action in collaboration with the international community.

Mubarak Acceptance Speech for Second Term

NC121644 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1105 GMT 12 Oct 87

[Speech by President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at the People's Assembly Hall in Cairo on 12 October following his swearing-in for a second presidential term—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Brothers and sisters, People's Assembly members: In this good democratic atmosphere and under this dome where lawmakers, propagators of justice and freedom, meet, and before the people's representatives—the sons of the people—in this house, I have taken an oath of

responsibility, an oath of commitment to right and to duty, an oath of wholehearted sacrifice for this homeland, and an oath to serve the people, the entire people.

Our great people, of their national conscience and their free patriotic will, have given me their precious confidence. The decisionmakers have decided that I should lead the march of action, struggle, and sacrifice, fortified with this solid shield and this immense potential. Together we will wage the battles of development and progress. Together we will build new edifices of production on Egypt's noble soil. Together we will defend our political and social democracy, and pay the tax of the great achievement, and embark on a great renaissance worthy of Egypt's name, history, and heritage.

The people have expressed their will and we are all servants of this will. The people have decided and we all obey the decision. The people have ordered and their orders are obeyed.

My oath before the people and its representatives constitutes pride in the order, the will, and the decision. It is a profound understanding of the meaning of the nation's confidence. It is a clear pledge to God and the homeland that I will endeavor to retain this confidence which is the most precious thing for a person to whom fate has given the highest responsibility. I will always believe that today's ruler is tomorrow's ruled, and that all individuals will fade away. What remains is the good deed motivated by honesty, loyalty, and purity, which places the homeland's supreme interest above any other consideration.

It is on the basis of this understanding of the nation's confidence and pride in it that I hope I will be well thought of both by those who said yes and those who said no. While I am grateful to those who said yes, I am also happy because our democracy welcomes those who say no. [applause] From this podium, I say to those who said yes: I will exert myself day and night to be what you want me to be. I also say yes to those who said no. All my efforts day and night will be directed at enabling us to come to terms. Yes and no are the same side of the constitutional responsibility in a democratic structure, no matter how different the causes and reasons. Democracy will not be vanquished, despite all atempts and maneuvers by its enemies, because the people are stronger. Democracy will not retreat in the face of the crimes committed to assassinate democracy in the name of democracy, because life has taught us that crime does not pay.

There is no going back on democracy despite the terror of the reckless bullets and of the treacherous word; the people can smash any terror. Democracy is not a gift from the ruler but the true expression of the will of the people. It is the healthy pulse of millions of people. With the weapon of belief, the will to confront, and their adherence to their interests and benefit, the masses are the protectors of democracy and the creators of stability. The masses are the battalions of the renaissance.

I thank them and I offer them my commitment on this historic day on which we are starting a new stage in Egypt's reconstruction: the Egypt of the great awakening, the Egypt of the renaissance after the awakening.

Brothers and sisters, we are not starting from a void but are continuing to fill every vacuum. All our aspirations stem from the present and are a continuation of the will to develop. Following the awakening we will build the age of renaissance. There is no separation between the past, the present, and the future. The responsibility of the second term in office is a new chapter in the development book. It is a new role which we are adding to the existing construction. It is a new stage in all our battles. Many are those battles whose flame has not faded, whose light has not gone out, and whose appeal has not diminished.

The plans of action of the last 6 years were no secret to anyone. We took no steps that did not take account of the ground underneath. We took steps, even leaps, forward, according to a studied, scientific plan, with aims that were clear to all the people. In this great action, we were committed to manifest principles from which we did not deviate until we reached the shores of safety. The storms were fierce. The obstacles were awful. We were engulfed by foreign and internal circumstances that were enough to make us downhearted and bring despair to our hearts. But thanks to the efforts of all our citizens we did not lose our nerve. Our will was not shaken. On the contrary, we laid down a firm basis for economic and democratic construction.

Anyone visiting Egypt these days after a long absence will see the enormous changes that have taken place in all production and service areas. Many Arab leaders and prominent figures have frankly told me that they came to Egypt with gloomy expectations from what they had, regrettably, read in certain party newspapers. When they arrived, however, they were greatly surprised. They saw that Egypt is really a pioneer in construction [applause], a forerunner in the fields of industry, agriculture, building, and in developing services, and a bastion of security and stability. It is true, everything has changed for the better, despite all difficulties. False words, no matter how flowery, are too weak to change facts. Only facts will answer the big question of where we were, where we are now, and where we are heading for the future.

When I refer to the state of affairs 6 years ago, I do not intend to indulge in oneupmanship against anyone, nor belittle previous efforts made by others with faith and generosity. The stages of national action have their own objective circumstances as well as both positive and negative influences. The start of democracy clashed with important events that ended with party paralysis, cessation of the opposition papers, and the concomitant measures that affected many politicians, journalists, university professors, and large groups representing various trends.

The country then faced the most serious and ugliest terrorist crime in its contemporary history when the bullets of treachery assassinated the late President Muhammad Anwar al-Sadat [applause]. Bloody events took place in certain big cities after the assassination, in which a large number of policemen and citizens were martyred.

The will of the people chose me to assume the first responsibility in that painful atmosphere in which sorrow and general feelings mixed. The general feeling was one of fear that terrorism might spread and I am not exaggerating if I say that the nation feared that the government might falter and the country collapse into the unknown. At the same time, it was feared that the reaction to what happened might be at the expense of democracy and the freedom of opinion.

The capitals of the world were watching what was taking place in Egypt with great concern and anxiety. This was natural, because Egypt is the key to stability in the Middle East and the country with the greatest influence on the course of events in the region. The situation had its effects on economic matters. Investors were watching and adopting a wait-and-see attitude. Trade slowed down pending a clarification of the situation. There was much controversy about the results of the economic policies applied between 1974 and 1981.

The exploitation of the open-door policy by certain individuals and the resulting delay in mobilizing resources to promote development gave opponents of the open-door policy the chance to defame the principle of the policy itself. They deliberately ignored the fact that countries in both East and West have opened their doors to national and foreign investments in order to increase production, improve products, and promote the standard of services to the masses of the people.

The bloody terrorist incidents were followed by a sharp drop in tourism in Egypt. The hotels emptied and hotel workers were threatened with dismissal. The craft industries that depended on tourism began to close their doors. Also, there was a noticeable shortage in foreign currency income at that time and what was available of it found its way outside the banking sector.

This was accompanied by the closing down of a number of factories, reduced production, and deterioration in some important industries as a result of machinery wear and tear and non-renovation. The Israeli forces had not completed their withdrawal from Sinai, which was set for 24 April 1982. The Arab situation was suffering because of a complete break between Egypt and its brothers.

Brothers and sisters, that is how the general situation looked when the people entrusted me with the responsibility in those critical circumstances. I believe that all of you appreciate the gravity of that situation and the self-confidence, firmness in confronting, and insistence on shouldering the burdens with all their weight that this responsibility required.

What did we do? The regime's policy proceeded along a clear democratic road and in five directions:

First, an open-minded democracy that opens all doors and windows, does not differentiate between supporter and opposition, and does not shackle any opinion or curtail a view. It was a new and bright page in political action. I started by receiving at the Presidential Office all the opposition figures who had been detained. [applause] The symbol there was very clear; namely, that the regime is for everybody and that the opposition is an indivisible part of it because Egypt is the homeland of all Egyptians. All the parties resumed their national activities. The opposition papers appeared without any kind of censorship. Publishing in some papers at times exceeded all constitutional limits, something that no contemporary democracy anywhere in the world has experienced.

The basis for that was that the novelty of the regime had released all repressions without any control mechanism. It is my conviction that the continuation of the practice, the masses' awareness, and national commitment will reduce the excesses. Two elections for your respected Assembly were held and the opposition won a number of seats. This was unprecedented in Egyptian parliamentary Assembly elections since they were first held in Egypt more than 60 years ago.

The country was subjected to dangerous internal incidents. The people's awareness was, even before the law, the first shield of stability. The emergency laws were not applied to any political activity. The security personnel have performed, and are still performing, their duty as best as it can be done to protect millions of people from the crimes of sedition and terrorism. [applause] They have proved that they perform at peak levels of vigilance, efficiency, and watchfulness over the people's interests. Stability in Egypt thus became a model and an example that enjoins the respect of East and West.

Second, an economic policy with a specific framework and content based on a comprehensive economic and social development plan, which was achieved in the first 5-year development plan, particularly in production and services projects, a standard that won the appreciation of neutral international circles. We have followed a policy that will radically and completely resolve the major problems because we do not believe in temporary solutions. Problems worsen when the solutions break down, shaking the trust between the people and their leaders. Correct figures cannot be refuted, except by those who are biased or have bad manners. The people have heard me state these figures on more than one occasion and I see no need to repeat them now.

We turned our attention to the public sector, renovating its factories and correcting its management. The result was an increase in production, higher quality, and a decrease in the number of companies losing money. The wheel of export began to turn quickly and we removed many obstacles. The private sector also began to prosper, with full encouragement from the government. New industries emerged and existing ones thrived. Industrial complexes were constructed and the slogan "made in Egypt" shone to the point that it become a source of pride for every Egyptian, particularly in the clothing, furniture, electric implement, and food industries. [applause] In addition, we have begun to produce industrialized equipment, which is the highest stage of manufacturing progress.

All this took place while we were facing the huge problem of debts, the problem which is breaking the backs of most Third World countries. We took decisive measures as part of a comprehensive plan and a carefully studied and objective economic reform program in order to stop the drain on our resources. The loans policy was restricted, and strict and rigorous controls and standards were adopted to allow taking out loans only in cases of the utmost urgency and when foreign loans were essential for the continued production or completion of basic vital utilities.

Even in these cases we stipulate the need for a timetable to restrict borrowing, preparatory to stopping it completely. This comprehensive reform plan was Egyptian in its concepts, foundations, and goals, because it was worked out and inspired by the interests of the broad base of the people, and not by this or that foreign party. This is our tradition and method in every step we take or action we begin. We have never accepted any restriction on Egypt's will or harm to Egypt's interests. Egypt is not the country which obeys what others say or moves when others give the signal. It is the one which acts, pushes forward, and decides. [applause] Egypt's head will remain upright in the world forever.

If we move on to the field of agricultural production, we will find that, despite the decrease in the amount of cultivated land in the past because of construction and excavation, we were able to stop this trend and achieve a tangible increase in agricultural production for a number of important crops. We now export surplus crops and are in the process of implementing a plan to increase the production of other crops that had witnessed a drop as a result of a change in crop factors. This is despite the fact that the productivity of a single feddan of such crops has increased. Furthermore, we are consistently and steadily moving toward increasing the cultivated areas and changing the desert into a green, productive land that will bring us wealth and security.

Third, an unequivocal commitment to honesty in government that accepts no indifference or compromise. [applause] We challenge anyone who can claim that we have covered up corruption [applause] or prevented the law from taking its course with anyone who committed a wrong or was guilty, or that we protected a friend or relative. Our faith has never been shaken in the belief that the supremacy of the law is the source of security and that the independence of the judiciary is the protection for all, both rulers and ruled. [applause]

Fourth, if the goal is to build a strong society capable of overcoming its obstacles and challenges, achieving social justice is the core of government responsibility. The primary measure for the government structure is total alignment with everything that will provide a secure life for those with limited incomes and that will exploit every available resource in that regard. We are with the poor until they triumph in the battle for a dignified life. [applause] We are with the capable people who contribute to production, increase labor opportunities, and give society what they owe it. In this sense, it is possible for the various classes to coexist without conflict and hatred. For this sake we have increased wages, although they now constitute about 45 percent of the total annual state revenues.

Wages in the past 5 years have doubled. While total wages in the governmental sector in 1981 were 2.425 billion pounds. This figure rose to 4.637 billion in 1986. It is expected to reach 5.419 billion pounds in 1987 following the recent increase in wages and salaries.

The government remains the largest source of job opportunities. The ministries, state institutions, public economic establishments, and public sector absorb around 6 million workers—around 45 percent of the overall work force in Egypt. Social commitment imposes on us this huge burden because the private business sector cannot absorb the huge annual increases in the work force. Hence, we created 892,000 new jobs in the government sector in the past 5 years, despite the burdens that this creates for the state's general budget.

The social security system was expanded for the sake of social justice. The number of those insured who deserve a pension increased from 10.7 to 12 million citizens. Thus, 12 out of every 13 families in Egypt are now insured and their breadwinners will earn a pension upon retirement.

We also expanded the scope of health insurance for workers in the public and other government worker sectors. The number of those with health insurance reached 3.6 million people, which represents 26.4 percent of the overall work force in Egypt.

The state bears the burden of granting a large number of free or subsidized services. Only Egypt and two other Third World countries give this immense volume of services to the people. We subsidize basic food commodities, as well as utility textiles, some kinds of medicine and baby formula, low-cost housing, education, public transportation, health services, fertilizers, pesticides, and other agricultural needs.

The overall cost of these services in 1986 reached around 4.531 billion pounds—almost 35.5 percent of the state's overall domestic and current incomes. [as heard]

Fifth, a wise foreign policy that puts Egypt's interests before anything else and above any consideration, and extends bridges of cooperation to all countries that prove their willingness to cooperate with Egypt honestly and sincerely and without interfering with our freedom, sovereignty, independence of will, or internal affairs.

Brother and sister members of the People's Assembly, this is a quick and brief look at where we were and where we have gone. It is the right of every Egyptian citizen to ask the big question: Where to? Where are we heading on the road of construction, democracy, social and economic development, and the establishment of sound foreign relations that serve our national aims?

I will start by talking about democracy. Our democratic system has become a firm and towering fact. Anyone who doubts this to serve his own purposes is only talking to himself. No one can deny the burning sun unless he covers the eyes of everyone. How we wish that these shouts were directed toward support instead of casting doubts, toward consolidation instead of tearing up, and toward spreading the light instead of making fires. How we wish that the shouts were ones of gratitude for the people's struggle for liberty, and not a repudiation of this struggle that represents the greatest development in Egypt's contemporary history.

Democracy does not bear its expected fruits for the homeland and citizens unless the path of democracy is one of responsibility and conscious national commitment. In its simplest form, responsibility is a commitment to law, to duty, to the rights of others, and to the supreme national interest. The commitment of the entire society stems and grows from the commitment of the individual. [applause]

A true democracy is one that achieves an accurate balance between the obligation to the individual and that to society, between the rights of the individual and those of society. No obligation to either should dominate, and no rights should prevail over the other. There are duties versus rights. These principles are accepted in all world democracies. They are the heart of human experience through successive centuries of continued struggle for human rights. At no time and nowhere will democracy ever mean that a man can do what he wants when he wants, without controls, limits, or regard for society's common interests.

Democracy will never mean that any group of people can unsheath venomous bayonets of words or deeds to destroy the structure under the pretext of any banner, which in reality would be a tool to destroy society's values and traditions and constitute an act of aggression against its pillars and sanctities.

Democracy is first and foremost a means of discipline, not a chance to create disorder and anarchy. Democracy means construction, not destruction. It bringing people closer together, not divides them. It safeguardes the law, not tampers with it or harms values. Democracy is exercised by an individual in his daily life and practiced by the people represented by their constitutional authority. The responsibilities of these authorities are governed by an important constitutional principle formulated by democracy to achieve balance, cooperation, and stability.

This principle is the separation between the authorities so that no branch can exceed its bounds, infringing on another. Constitutional revival entails safeguarding this fundamental principle that protects the functioning of a democratic regime. Thus, we must at this stage increase the sound performance of the state's authorities, which are the authorities of the people.

The executive authority, exercised by the Council of Ministers and high administrative offices, with branches throughout cities and villages, is the authority to which every citizen turns for his daily requirements. It shoulders full responsibility before the Legislative Council in building society economically and socially. Despite the great efforts exerted by this authority's organs in discharging its tasks in serving the masses, there are undoubtedly certain factors that limit its ability to perform its duties. Most important of these factors are inherited bureaucratic red tape, contention about jurisdiction between organs and institutions, and bottlenecks facing decisions referred from higher to lower echelons.

In view of the harm these obstacles represent to the interests of the masses, a complete program will outline valid bylaws and instructions, study inflated job structures, and settle contentions about jurisdiction. The principle of reward and punishment can be strictly applied and an appropriate formula reached to select the best leaders, capable of implementating the program of administrative reform.

I realize that much expert research has been done in this regard. But this research has not so far produced the desired results. It is time, therefore, that we all assume our responsibility and develop the government through comprehensive administrative reorganization.

This leads us to the subject of local administration in the governorates. After long years of practical experience, there is need now for a thorough examination of the positive and negative aspects of this democratic administration in light of tangible reality. [applause] Development and modernization should extend to all offices and institutions of local administration. [applause]

The legislative authority: The People's Assembly is the home of all the people. It is the refuge of every citizen in this homeland. The People's Assembly is the master of its own will by virtue of its law and regulations. It exercises the power of legislation and control. We want

the democratic process under the dome of the Assembly to reach its pinnacle through the majority and the opposition. This demands the solidification of rational parliamentary traditions which can achieve effective positive cooperation between supporting and opposing views so that these traditions can become a model for future generations in respecting freedom of opinion, appreciating supreme national interests, and contributing to the consolidation of stability.

I urge the People's Assembly to make a comprehensive review of existing legislation, in cooperation with the government, so it can become a homogeneous unit, without contradictions or duplicity, responsive to the provisions and spirit of the Constitution, without ambiguity, and responsive to all developments and changes in economic and social areas.

The judicial authority: The judiciary in Egypt has been a source of pride throughout history. It is the authority responsible for the sound application of laws and the establishment of justice. The judicial bench should always remain held high by continuous enhancement of the judge's independence, safeguarding the judiciary against all suspicion, interference, pressure, or temptation from any source, and guaranteeing the implementation of final sentences. [applause]

The complete separation of judicial, executive, and legislative authorities can be achieved by the benches' remaining within the parameters of their authority. The judiciary is the best example of obedience to the text and sovereignty of the law and blind justice, before which large and small are equal. This requires developing court procedures which ensure the establishment of justice.

Brothers and sisters, members of the People's Assembly, democratic rule in this clear framework is our tool for protecting stability and prosperity. Stability safeguards every achievement made by the people through continuous sacrifice, constant work, and solid determination. Therefore, maintaining and safeguarding this stability against the dangers of terrorism and plots becomes the national duty of every Egyptian concerned for his country, his society, and his interests. [applause]

A citizen of a democratic state who is protected by the law devotes himself to protecting it from the enemies of law and democracy. In long-standing democracies there is no difference in this regard between one political party and another, a government supporter or member of the opposition, or ruler and ruled.

In the past few years, some friendly European countries have encountered very violent terrorist incidents which threatened the lives and safety of citizens in the streets and public places. These incidents continued for 2 consecutive months, leaving victims among police and defenseless citizens. What happened then? The people in these countries and all their political parties, institutions, and sects stood as one man and denounced these crimes.

They all rallied to resist and thwart those crimes. Not one voice among the opposition parties failed to perform this national responsibility. The entire people closed ranks with the security forces, supporting them, hailing their efforts, and honoring their martyrs, because their security was above every other consideration.

Perhaps you have noticed that recently there have been reckless campaigns in the press, slandering the Egyptian security forces, spreading lies about them, and attempting to undermine their efforts, work, and performance in shouldering their grave and great responsibilities. These campaigns occurred at a time when these forces were confronting hideous terrorist crimes, sacrificing their lives for the homeland's and citizens' security, and bearing more than human beings can. [applause]

Indeed, everywhere there were honorable citizens who provided the most splendid aid to the security forces in their national duty. There were also responsible nationalist writers who confronted others' nihilistic behavior, which was full of the poison of malice. However, in total frankness, I never imagined that some people would abandon their national responsibility with regard to the grave events threatening the lives of all and aimed at undermining stability, prosperity, and democracy.

From this rostrum I salute the Egyptian security forces, [applause] their commanders, all their personnel, soldiers and officers. I tell them, expressing an actual fact: You are appreciated and respected by the people, whatever your rank, because you are performing venerable tasks for millions of others. You are doing this to the best of your ability, with a sincerity that cannot be doubted or undermined.

A policeman does not enjoy special immunity from accountability if he neglects his task or abuses his authority. He is the first to whom the law is applied. There are approved regulations for such matters. Still, a member of the security forces, who represents society's authority, has prestige and is respected and appreciated while performing his duty in serving the people, in the name of the people and the law. All honorable citizens must rest assured that the state is confronting with total firmness all attempts to terrorize the people, undermine their security, or threaten their liberty and lives, because the people's security is our noblest duty. Furthermore, the prestige of the state is a necessary factor in preserving the homeland. [applause]

Dear brothers and sisters: In talking about building democracy, some say that certain provisions of the Constitution should be reconsidered and some laws amended. With my usual complete honesty and candor, I tell you that if this matter were a top priority on the list

of national action or if it could contribute to addressing the citizens' basic problems, I would not have hesitated for a single moment to open wide the door to debating these matters. [applause] We have no intention or interest in maintaining certain conditions, believe me, if they do not benefit the homeland's higher interests or if the great majority of the sons of the people believe that changing these conditions is so important that it deserves precedence over other aspects of national action.

There remains a matter which I hope those working in the political field will understand: The people will not be dominated by terrorism, because they reject the delusory, sinful ideas which motivate this terrorism and because they will not abandon democracy. The people will not accept a call to retreat, because every era has its own ideas and its own men. The movement of history is always forward. [applause] The people will not accept alignment with totalitarianism or autocracy. [applause] The people naturally reject extremism. So, I believe the national conscience appeals to all to rally around their gains in democracy, social justice, and equal opportunities. [applause]

National rallying around these aims must constitute a strong, impregnable alliance that preserves freedom, fights extremism, repudiates terrorism, enhances constitutional legitimacy and the multiparty system, and looks to the future with hope, knowledge, and work. This is our national call as we promote the struggle of legitimate opinion in building our renaissance.

The economic and social structure: The democratic structure is our support in economic and social building. The human being is not a mere machine but has a heart, a mind, and a will. A human being participates in the establishment of a just society which meets his needs. As you all know, the economic picture for the past 6 years has been unimaginably, extremely bleak. Therefore, it was necessary for any remedial efforts to begin with an accurate definition of the real situation with which we were dealing, an examination of the structure which we commit ourselves to develop, and a calculation of the resources available for utilization.

However, we found ourselves in a critical situation, in which it was difficult for us to move due to deficent resources and mounting burdens. The following are the principal features of this situation:

An alarming population explosion, in which the population increased by 7,030,438 from 1981 to 1986. This required providing additional, secondary job opportunities and basic consumer commodities as well as more educational and medical treatment services and housing units.

We were also faced with the problem of new graduates and persons reaching working age every year who desired incomes meeting their basic living needs. We were faced with an erosion of agricultural land, which is a source of food, and degeneration in the quality of the soil. This was accompanied by increased individual consumption of basic commodities that exceeded historical or world records.

The basic components for industrialization and land reclamation were also inadequate, whether for the production of energy or the provision of drinking water, sewer systems, or internal and external communications networks. You were all aware of this. Then there were crowded ports and deficient means of land, maritime, and air transport. As for the bases of general industrial production, these were exhausted and had not been renewed for a very long time.

In addition, there was a lack of building and construction resources. There was too little land for building. There were delays in the implementation of projects due to a lack of resources and the hesitation of investors—even Egyptian investors—because of the difficult economic conditions. The foreign currency market was unstable. Bureaucratic complications were stifling and land required for the establishment of projects was scarce.

However, thanks to popular and official efforts and everyone's participation in construction, we have been able to achieve much. I will confine myself to mentioning only the headlines:

1. For the first time in the 20th century, the total area of agricultural land increased to 6.3 million feddans after we had resolutely carried out dredging work and [reclaimed] fallow land, which continued nonstop for 30 years. [applause] The production of some crops has increased, and the production per feddan of other basic crops has also risen. We now export new kinds of vegetables and fruits to the Arab and European markets. During the last year exports of these products has increased. I myself saw these items being exported. [applause]

We have been able to present the Egyptian consumer with new products manufactured in Egypt. These totaled 1,270 commodities during this 5-year plan—that is a rate of 1 new commodity a day. Markets that are replete with food products, textiles, clothes, household equipment, and building materials, not produced in Egypt before, testify to this.

2. We were able to increase the number of the major and minor factories which have actually begun production from 4,105 in 1981 to 10,064 in 1987. In other words, in 5 years we have doubled the number of factories set up in Egypt since industry began here during the reign of Muhammad 'Ali.

The production of basic industrial commodities increased in 5 years at a rate between 20 and 50 percent. Annual exports of the public industrial sector more than doubled. They are expected to triple within the current

year. Three hundred public sector factories, of a total of 354, have been modernized. This means that in 5 years 85 percent of the old factories have been modernized. These factories had not been upgraded since their construction, and some of them were built in 1906. In other words, they are 81 years old.

An experimental stage began in manufacturing equipment and vehicles, such as water purification plants, sewer systems, ships, railway cars, and tractors. This was done as a prelude to entering a new phase of Egyptian industrialization: the construction of complete factories by Egyptian hands.

3. We doubled the capacity of tourist hotels. In 5 years we constructed new hotels, tourist villages, and floating hotels, totaling almost half the number built since the end of the last century. This enabled us in the past 6 months to receive as many tourists as we had in the entire previous year.

We added three international airports which receive flights from all countries. We also modernized and enlarged Cairo airport. Our present airport capacity is 38 million passengers annually. This is three times the capacity we had when Egypt entered the aircraft age.

4. The annual output of petroleum derivatives increased by 12 million tons, which equals 40 percent of the quantity produced from the discovery of petroleum to 1981.

5. We succeeded in rebuilding the basic facilities needed for agricultural, industrial, and tourist industry growth, in addition to expanding services to the citizens. A summary of this follows:

a. Construction of electric power stations and networks triple the number of such facilities in 1981, and 90 times greater than those existing in 1952.

b. Complete elimination of backlogged cargo at Egyptian ports since the construction of three modern ports. It is noteworthy that only four ports had been built in Egypt until 1981, before the [economic] plan. The old ports have also been upgraded to handle quantities equalling 10 times their capacity 5 years ago.

c. New roads built for the transport of passengers and goods. Nearly 16,000 km of roads have been built, averaging 43 km per day. [applause]

d. Installation of 900,000 new telephone lines. This is 1 and 1/2 more lines than when the telephone came to Egypt. The citizen and the investor are now able to contact directly anyone, anywhere in the world from their workplace.

e. Nearing self-sufficiency in cement output, adding a capacity approximately four times greater than previously. Our annual output, which was 3.7 million tons in 1981, amounted to 13 million tons in 1987.

f. Production of reinforced steel rising to three times the amount of previous output, totalling 1 million tons. In 1981 it was 356,000 tons. We hope that when the second stage of the Al-Dukhaylah iron project is completed, we will approach total self-sufficiency.

g. Outside the [Nile] Valley, far from agricultural land, the establishment of 18 new towns. These were the first towns to be built outside the Nile Valley since the days of the pharaohs.

h. Construction of 1 million housing units, more than had been built previously in 25 years.

i. The construction of 15 new large hospitals which began functioning. These hospitals began working after construction on them had been halted for decades.

j. A base for television and radio communications—the largest and most modern in the Middle East—was built, covering all of Egypt's governorates for the first time.

k. An increase in the number of people who are insured and have the right to a pension to 12.2 million people, approximately one-quarter of the population. [applause]

l. Through commitment to providing education opportunities for everybody, an increase in the number of educated persons to 25.5 million. Thus, Egypt has the largest number of educated people in both the Arab region and Africa. [applause] this human wealth is singular in that 7 million persons have acquired technical skills which can be further advanced to absorb technological developments needed for the coming stage.

This, brothers and sisters, is a quick review of some of our achievements. This leads us to the big question: Where are we heading? Which goals do we want to make a reality, raising the standard of the citizens' daily lives, benefitting them, and leading to the rennaissance? Are there real bases for hope? Yes, these bases are represented in stability, confidence, and permanency:

1. Individuals' and establishments' deposits in local and foreign currency amounted to billions of pounds last year, when they increased by an average unmatched in Egypt. Deposits in local currency increased by 2.275 billion pounds last year, representing an average annual growth of 18.8 percent. Deposits in foreign currency increased during the same period by an average of 11.9 percent.

These are indications of great confidence among citizens at home and abroad and of their readiness to deposit their money and savings in a stable and safe country. This is strengthened by Egyptian capital's contribution

to new projects, implemented since 1973, amounting to 65 percent of the total capital invested. The Egyptians' contribution to joint projects in the past 5 years amounted to 4.86 billion pounds.

2. We still have approximately 2.8 million unused feddans of arable land. This equals approximately half the total area of land now being cultivated. We also possess the water necessary to reclaim these arable lands.

3. We possess water surfaces suitable for developing fisheries once they are cleansed of sources of pollution. The area of these surfaces totals 13 million feddans, which could produce 2 million tons of fish annually.

4. We have the largest industrial base in the Middle East. We also have technological bases, including the most up-to-date industrialization equipment in the world. Total investments in this sector that could be used to manufacture machinery and equipment are worth approximately 20 billion pounds. We also possess basic resources and metals sufficient to meet the needs of many existing factories and new industries.

Added to all this are the natural gas fields that have been discovered. Plans are being prepared to use them to establish basic industries such as fertilizers and advanced chemicals, and to operate new power plants and achieve self-sufficiency in butane. I believe we have already achieved self-sufficiency in butane production.

We return to the big question: Where are we going on this road of renaissance building?

On these national bases, and through doubled efforts in the coming stages, we wish to realize the following specific objectives:

Increased production: We want national production increased by a percentage higher than anticipated increases in consumption. We can thus achieve two things: making goods available to the market to avoid scarcity and constant rises in prices due to short supply and high demand, and limiting our dependence on foreign sources, thus avoiding huge imports that place a burden on our foreign currency revenues and force us to borrow from foreign states. The outside world cannot forever provide us with the goods we need.

This great objective—production surpassing consumption—is not an easy task; it calls for great hopes that require an organized effort and coordinated planning of various production locations, particularly when we consider the expected population increase over the next 5 years as well as the expected increase in the per capita consumption rate of essential goods. What is our plan to achieve this?

If we look at our objectives in the agriculture sector, we will find that we have to achieve self-sufficiency in all crops except wheat and maize. We will also have to limit our dependence on foreign sources for wheat and maize by at least 25 percent. We will have to increase agricultural exports to cover the cost of wheat and maize imports.

Studies by specialized entities show that this can be achieved through a program to be announced by the government. Major steps in this program should include the reclamation of at least 15,000 feddans annually; achieving self-sufficiency in poultry, fish, and eggs; reducing waste by at least 50 percent; and determining the system to be employed in marketing nontraditional agricultural products such as fruits and vegetables.

In the industrial sector, we seek a rudimental shift to an industrical society according to an announced plan that includes the following: meeting the public's need for essential manufactured food products; complete industrialization of production lines not requiring complex or precision equipment; constantly improving the quality of domestic products and allowing the masses to monitor this improvement at special annual fairs displaying modernized and improved Egyptian products of various industries, without exception; establishing integrated industrial areas at a considerable distance from agricultural districts and dedicating the major portion of these areas to small industries that can be perfected by each governorate; and starting immediate surveying of Egyptian villages' potential for the rural industrialization program, especially after certain villages' proven success in this endeavor.

Turning to the private sector, we find it is no exaggeration to term as nonsense any talk about distinctions between the public and private sectors. I assume it is now accepted as a given that the wealth of both sectors belongs to the people. [applause]

In this field we need to reinforce the ability of both the public and private industrial sectors to increase production and improve product quality through introducing sophisticated technology, thus allowing them to compete in foreign markets.

I need not repeat that the state is eager to foster all productive activities in Egypt and without discriminating between the public and private sectors. Every project built on Egyptian soil for the benefit of Egypt's workers, technicians, and consumers receives the same amount of government and public protection and the same guarantees. This makes it possible for these projects to take shape, produce, and provide new opportunities for labor and expertise, both of which can contribute to this homeland's construction and the improvement of its ability to compete efficiently and effectively.

The government will submit to your esteemed Assembly the legal arrangements agreed upon to facilitate reclaiming new land by an average of 150,000 feddans annually and the expansion of industrial zones. It will also submit

a national program for the Egyptian countryside's industrialization to you. Opening new job opportunities for youths will be taken into consideration in all of this. The state will encourage expansion in establishing small projects in the basic production sectors. It will also act to stimulate the role of companies contributing to investment in order to protect the rights of investors and guarantee that their funds' utilization is supervised.

In moving to other fields of national action and goals during the rennaissance stage, I would sum them up as follows:

Housing: The number of units in this sector is horrendous. However, we will never stop confronting problems and finding solutions. I see no need to describe the problem; a painful phenomenon disturbing us all is the fact that a noticeable number of citizens reside in places lacking standard housing conditions.

The plan of attack for the coming stage is a comprehensive and ambitious one, one that will give a strong push to reinforcing what has already been achieved, which in itself is a great deal and cannot be denigrated. This plan is based on providing land and utilities at cost to those who apply to build. Housing experts estimate we will need 470 [square] million meters of such land until the year 2000.

The state will continue to provide easy-term construction loans provided to those with low incomes. Furthermore, the state will encourage the establishment of special funds to finance the construction of new housing areas for youths. The phenomenon of imaginary ownership and exploiting those with small saving accounts will be firmly resisted through the application of advanced, flexible regulations. [applause]

Education: Rennaissance is based on knowledge and action. Restricted and confused teaching does not produce sound and upright individuals or open minds capable of dealing with every situation. Instead, it is an obstacle hindering an individual's progress as well as that of his society.

The Egyptian family complains about restrictions in education and the weakness of schools teaching their sons. They also complain of a lack of suitable teachers in various fields. Developing education is a primary target for the coming stage so that schools and universities can fulfill their basic role and ease the family's burden decisively. The school's mission would thus become to develop talent for thinking and innovating and to polish individual skills and the ability to produce and gain.

The approach I demand we pursue in developing education in the coming stage seeks the creation of a generation of producers who are able to work at production centers, not in offices. This approach also seeks to ease the material and moral burdens the Egyptian family assumes in educating its children. Moreover, the educational system must guarantee the discovery of gifted persons, their sponsorship, and the development of their talents so that a generation of learned men can be created in Egypt.

An integrated plan, annexed to the state's 5-year plan, to reform Egypt's educational system in Egypt will be referred to your respectable Assembly. This plan covers the development of educational courses according to the most modern systems, the additional training of teachers, changes to the study and examination system, and the construction of enough schools to apply the system of full schooldays.

In this regard, it must be established that the principle of free education will not be altered. [applause] When we assert this principle, we take into consideration that the kind of education available to Egyptians, regardless of their financial capabilities, is a pillar of construction and development in a country where millions possess only a limited income. If those who possess the resources wish to contribute to covering the costs of educational development—and I think they do—we welcome and encourage this contribution with all our appreciation. [applause] Are there no donors? [laughter and applause] Then how can we build schools? Those who have money must pay.

Tourism: Egypt is proud that it possesses one-sixth of the world's archaeological relics. It also possesses distinctive sandy beaches extending 2,500 km. With its location and geology, Egypt is qualified to attract an increasing share of world tourism, particularly since the majority of basic facilities required for tourism have been completed over the past 5 years. I can say that the tourist facilities constructed last year represent a real beginning of a major tourism rennaissance in Egypt, one that must be realized and supported in all areas necessary to make it a success. Our planning is directed toward doubling tourism revenue in the coming stage during the 5-year period.

The necessary infrastructure is being established with Egyptian financing on Sinai and Red Sea beaches and remaining areas of the northwest coast. Planning and development can be accomplished through Arab and international investment. These areas can thus become tourist attractions and this will be accompanied by a program to develop and update industries contributing to tourism. Tourism can thus occupy the first place among various sources of foreign currency.

Health: We all sense an urgent need for promoting medical treatment in Egypt. We must admit that free treatment has fallen below the level required and that paid treatment exceeds the ability of most Egyptians to pay. This situation cannot change without a decisive confrontation, one for which we have many weapons. We now have public and private hospitals all over the country. We have treatment centers equipped with the

most modern medical appliances. We have thousands of young doctors eager to play a growing role in providing treatment and care for the public, at a considerable cost.

We have to embark on an integrated program for health insurance, one which employs all these energies and all medical institutions, both public and private. The next stage must witness huge efforts to provide health services to schoolchildren. These services do not now meet the needs of this large sector of our sons.

Brother and sister members of the People's Assembly, it is the people's right and your right to ask how the money required for all these heavy developmental burdens will be found when we are already overburdened with foreign debts. First of all, as I told you, it was our decision early this year not to permit imports unless they are for productive projects. We also decided to make it incumbent upon owners of projects borrowing funds to pay back debt installments and interest in the same currency borrowed. Some used to find it easier to borrow than they do now, while some said they would depend on themselves rather than borrow.

Foreign currency earned by our projects must increase annually on the basis of the ratio required to pay the annual debt installment and interest. This issue must be borne in mind when assessing performances of managers in sectors that resort to foreign borrowing. I hope it will be clear that rescheduling debts does not mean we are exempt from repaying them; it merely means delaying payment.

This situation makes it incumbent on us both to determine specific goals for various exports in the fields of agriculture, industry, tourism, and petroleum and to bring the leaders of these sectors to account on a regular and organized basis, to see whether these goals have been achieved. This requires a continuous assessment of the situation.

Brothers and sisters, the only way is for us to depend on ourselves and to limit borrowing. We must enhance our domestic efforts to increase our foreign currency revenue, which can then be devoted to investment, thus increasing the Egyptian share of new projects and encouraging the flow of national funds to productive sectors.

Considerable efforts have been made to attract the savings of Egyptian expatriates. However, there is still much to be done in this field, particularly the safeguarding of these savings and protecting them from manipulators. We must offer Egyptian expatriates viable and guaranteed investment projects. We must also develop existing saving facilities so that they can attract the largest possible number of savers.

Possible areas of action are numerous and the horizons for national finance for development are encouraging and wide. We must concentrate efforts to face the major challenge facing the Egyptian economy: limiting foreign imports. The Egypt of all Egyptians, the Egypt of the renaissance, is capable of taking on this challenge.

Wages and prices: There remains a major problem, one that I know concerns every family in Egypt, especially those with low incomes. This is the issue of wages and prices. Let no one think we are blind to the great suffering of low-income households, despite the subsidies provided by the government for essential goods. This issue, which I place at the top of all our difficulties, is my major concern, particularly since it does not allow for partial solutions, with world prices climbing at unexpectedly high rates. I do not wish to deceive anyone with hasty hopes or glowing promises. Never. The solutions must be comprehensive and parallel; they must be planned by the government and implemented by society as a whole.

Part of the solution is to continue subsidizing a group of essential goods. This is a line of action we had accepted and will never deviate from. The modern state and the capable and conscious public realize their social and national responsibility to protect low-income groups. Each of you is responsible to society.

However, the important part of the solution is represented by our ability to turn the members of our society into integrated and productive cells. As for those who do not produce, we will find a way to make them produce. For those who contribute a limited amount to production, we will help them to produce more. When I speak of our ability to transform society into productive cells, I mean that everyone in Egypt should play a role in increasing production. I believe that the state's role is clear and needs no clarification: Its role is to provide utilities and services, as well as to invest in fields that the private sector does not contribute to.

The individual's role, however, does call for clarification and frankness, and I must tell you truthfully that the capacities of the national establishments and of the sons of Egypt who are able to work and produce do not offer all they could. We possess idle capacities in the public and private sectors; they could double their production if properly exploited. The responsibility for this falls primarily on the shoulders of owners of these establishments and those working in them. They must find the best ways to exploit these capacities and only then turn to the state if they come across obstacles they cannnot surmount. The government will commit itself in the next stage to removing these obstacles and hurdles.

On the other hand, we must admit that consumer prices are much higher than e prices of farm and factory [products]. This difference is due to the failure to confront the important issue of waste in distribution channels. This waste comes about because groups of distributors control and increase prices. The decisive approach to which we must direct our efforts is to regulate distribution enterprises in a way that will have a real effect on prices.

The government will submit to you its detailed program in this regard. I reiterate that increasing production is an issue involving all of Egypt. while fully appreciating the efforts made to prepare the way toward increasing production, I also call for a national conference to discuss means of increasing production and developing marketing regulations. All national experts in the official departments, scientific establishments, political parties, and various production centers would present their views and ideas regarding this vital issue on which renaissance is based. The conference would come out with a national program defining roles in the coming stage. This is a vital matter that requires the attention of all our country's experts.

We began the first stage by convening an economic conference that outlined the method to build the economy, despite conflicting views. Today we call for a conference to increase production now that we have laid the foundations and rearranged the house from within. It is our present duty to prepare everything for our upswing.

Brothers and sisters, members of the People's Assembly, every citizen of Egypt realizes that all the construction and progress we achieve depends on strong and courageous shields to protect sovereignty and independence, safeguard land and dignity, and defend the entire homeland against any treachery or aggression. These strong and courageous shields are represented by the sons of our valiant Armed Forces. [applause] Our sons in the Armed Forces are in the forefront of the national struggle and their mission and creed is the sacrifice of body and soul. I have no doubt that I am sincerely expressing your feelings and those of all Egyptians when I greet our Armed Forces with pride and admiration for what they do every day for the sake of Egypt, and when I salute the basic role they play in this vital and most strategically important region. [applause]

Therefore, despite harsh conditions, Egypt will spare nothing to provide our Armed Forces with the most up-to-date technology that is available and to ensure that they develop and improve to the highest levels in order to perform their sacred national mission.

Brothers and sisters, when we look at current international events, we become more convinced of the soundness of the policy we have adopted in dealing with foreign affairs in recent years. It is a policy that is based on the following principles:

1. To hold on to the permanent and just peace for Egypt, for the brother countries that are part of the same nation and fundamental commitment, and for all countries of the world. We desire an international community where cooperation and brotherhood prevail, and where wars and elements of destruction and ruin disappear. Linked to this is our active participation in the efforts being made to limit the arms race and eliminate the weapons of total destruction which are threatening the present and future of humanity, as well as threatening to wreck all human construction and civilization in every continent.

Consequently, we warmly welcome the agreement in principle recently reached by the United States and the Soviet Union on the removal of medium- and short-range nuclear missiles from Europe. We hope that the two great powers will sign the agreement that makes this pledge a reality. We hope that understanding between them will then extend to the field of strategic weapons and will keep outer space out of reach of the arms race.

2. To marshal actions abroad to serve development aims and secure vital national interests. Now that the colonial era is behind us, the basic challenge facing nations, regardless of their circumstances and resources, is to improve their peoples' economic conditions and to achieve their economic independence. Without this, political independence cannot be complete and cultural independence cannot prosper. If we look at our foreign activities in recent years, we find that they have focused to a large extent on economic matters, and continue to do so.

This involves action to increase the volume of aid we get from friendly countries; the conclusion of agreements on trade exchange which benefit the national economy; attracting foreign parties to cooperate with us in modernizing the means of production in Egypt and introducing modern technology to industry, agriculture, and services. We are giving the utmost priority to this issue because its effects in development efforts in the country and in improving the quality of life in Egypt are immense, although many of us might not appreciate their extent and dimension.

3. To abide by a balanced and reasonable foreign policy that is linked to supreme national aims and strategic interests while ignoring marginal affairs. The application of this principle is represented both by the establishment of cooperation and cordial relations with all countries that respect our sovereignty and rights and by avoiding hostility with any country that does not threaten our national security or security interests. This step can be enhanced by avoiding information campaigns or verbal diatribes with all countries because facts will eventually come out and truth will prevail. History will not take notice of the recriminations and verbal abuses, for they will soon disappear into oblivion. What will remain are the major deeds that change the course of history and open the way for the future.

4. To strengthen solidarity with the countries that constitute the basic spheres of our interest, primarily the Arab, African, and nonaligned countries, and to seek to eliminate the causes of tension and disputes among these countries. This stems both from our conviction that there are no real contradictions in their interests and

from our realization of the great benefits that all these countries would receive by increasing their cooperation in all areas and eliminating causes of differences and disputes.

Perhaps it is appropriate in this context to submit to the dignified People's Assembly, Egypt's concept of its Arab role, which has been a topical issue in the past few years, and how relations among the fraternal Arab countries should be. Egypt's Arab role is determined by objective and scientific considerations; by enlightened awareness of the movement of history; by a specific view of nationalist goals; by rich assets of civilization and struggle; by political, economic, and cultural power; and by the ability to confront challenges.

Therefore, this role must not be determined by the views of this or that party or based on personal interests, ties, or needs. In sum, Egypt's role is to effectively contribute toward protecting the Arab world's national security, safeguarding its vital strategic interests, and cementing cooperation and cohesion among its peoples. In my opinion, this role requires the following:

1. The Arab countries should arrive at a common view of supreme national goals, particularly on how to safeguard the Arab nation's security and confront the dangers of this serious stage. The Arab countries should formulate a complete strategy for confronting these dangers, a strategy that all must adhere to, regardless of their differences.

2. To maintain the independence of the Arab will and to act to ensure Arab decisionmaking freedom. As long as there are foreign factors and alien influences that intervene in decisionmaking, then the resulting decisions will not be Arab in content, aims, or effects, regardless of the masks and slogans they hide behind.

3. To have every Arab country respect the principal charters that were meant to govern united Arab action from the time the Arabs came together in the wake of World War II. Foremost among these are the Arab League Charter and the Joint Arab Defense Pact. No fair man can deny that Egypt has always remained in the vanguard of Arab forces that have adhered to these charters. Egypt will remain loyal to them and protect them because it played the major role in bringing them into existence. Egypt also understands the reasons for adhering to them even if a minority of Arab governments deviate from them from time to time. [applause]

4. To have all Arab countries committed to the principle of mutual respect and noninterference in other countries' affairs. The Arab countries cannot ask the outside world not to interfere in their affairs if they themselves are the first ones to violate this commitment.

5. To have the Arab countries agree on a formula governing relations between them and other non-Arab countries in the region. We believe that this concept should be devoid of racism and racial and sectarian discrimination. It should reject claims of regional expansion, hegemony, domination, and theories of supremacy. [applause]

6. To work to strengthen the Arab front by deepening solidarity among the Arab countries by settling their disputes peacefully without resorting either to force or to foreign parties to play the role of referee, and without supporting one party against another. We are talking about solidarity at this stage because we believe that it is not practical, given present circumstances, to speak of immediate, comprehensive Arab unity. We must admit that many changes have taken place during the past 2 decades. This requires us to re-examine our views, to see if we are really serious in the ideas we propose and the slogans we propound. If we try to deceive anyone, we will only be deceiving ourselves.

7. To preserve the Arab nation's resources and to strengthen the development process in the entire Arab homeland. In the first place, we must avoid squandering and wasting Arab resources. We must also concentrate our efforts on exploiting our resources to serve long-term development aims, on absorbing modern technology quickly, and on adopting the most modern scientific production methods.

This also requires that the Arab countries give special priority to trade exchange and economic cooperation among themselves, as well as seek to achieve common interests between businesses and their employees. Without this, any talk about Arab solidarity would be devoid of any substance in an age where real unity has been achieved among countries in other parts of the world based on economic interests and the easing of exchange in various fields. This is our view of the factors that determine the Arab role.

Inasmuch as the other Arab countries are prepared to share with us in shouldering this responsibility in a collective and sound way, Egypt will never hesitate in assuming its role and carrying out its mission. This is because a role cannot be determined by only one party or stem from a vacuum. A role is part of an active movement based on mutual interests and on policies that agree on certain points.

If we turn to the current problems in the region, we must state that it is the duty of us all to work to end the war raging in the Gulf as soon as possible, before the momentum generated by the unanimous Security Council Resolution 598 subsides. It is clear that the effects of this bloody war are not confined only to the two warring countries, for this conflagration has spilled over and is threatening the security of neighboring countries, especially fraternal Kuwait. We support Kuwait with our hearts [applause] and resources in defending its territory, sovereignty, and the security of its sons.

In addition, this war was the reason behind the bloody incidents outside the Grand Mosque in Mecca that both desecrated the sanctity of that holy site in the land of Islam and constituted a challenge to the policy of the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Thus, it was natural that Egypt would immediately declare its support for the brothers in the Saudi Kingdom, which God honored by making it the guardian of the Holy Mosque.

The Gulf war and other major events in the region cannot divert our attention from the Palestinian issue and the need to promptly resume the march toward peace. Developments have shown that this problem, when left unresolved, only gets worse and increases tension and confusion in the entire region. We believe that there is no other alternative to the convocation of an international Middle East peace conference in the manner accepted by the entire international community, based on the participation of the five permanent Security Council members and the parties to the conflict, including the PLO. [applause]

One of the factors we can rely on in this respect is the close relationship between Egypt and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan [applause] and the deep understanding I constantly meet in my brother, His Majesty King Husayn, [applause] with whom I also met yesterday when we held a round of important talks as part of our periodic meetings to discuss all bilateral issues and important questions.

These relations are truly considered a living example of what relations within the one Arab family should be. I very much appreciate this firm and close relationship with this courageous leader of a fraternal Arab people who play a significant role in various Arab issues.

Furthermore, we will work to create suitable conditions for the PLO to play an effective role in this respect, because the interests of our brothers who live under occupation cannot tolerate inaction.

I cannot end my remarks about the situation in the Middle East without referring to fraternal Lebanon. Lebanon is still enduring the repercussions of the stormy and bloody events which it has experienced during the past 12 years. As we have repeatedly said, and continue to say, the effective solution of the Lebanese problem lies in saving Lebanon from foreign pressures and interference, and enabling its people to draw up an acceptable formula for the regulation of political life in this friendly country.

In concluding my remarks on foreign policy, I would like to note the good brotherly relations which exist between us and the fraternal African states [applause] and refer to the broad vistas of potential cooperation with them in all fields, particularly in economic affairs. This is because the countries of the glorious continent stand in the same trench with us in the battle for construction and development. Like us, they suffer from the burden of the debt problem and they face the challenge of increasing their production to meet the needs of their people who are multiplying at enormous rates.

The peoples of the African Continent have stood with us in all the battles we have fought, with honor and dignity. Therefore, we stand with them just as firmly in their struggle to get rid of the racist regime in the south and achieve the full and unconditional independence of Namibia. We also stand with them in the battle they are fighting to achieve a just solution to the debt problem.

Brothers and sisters, members of the People's Assembly, there is not enough time to go into detail or delve into all basic aspects. What I have outlined to you is a specific framework for public action, in which the people and their government share in the battle for development. Major problems have been dealt with by this method on the basis of past experience and, considering the difficulties and challenges surrounding us, without exaggeration. These are our aspirations and we are seeking to achieve a renaissance after an awakening.

Renaissance calls for colossal action; it requires unequivocal decisions, disciplined implementation, active, continuous followup, and supervision by the people to ensure a superior performance and the avoidance of mistakes. Hopes cannot be achieved by one man or a group that gives itself the privileges of superiority and the rights of an elite. All share in the achievement of these hopes, as they share in decisionmaking.

The democratic way in which a decision is made makes every citizen feel that he is a partner in this homeland and an active member in society, and that his opinion counts for something in the fateful issues. This produces general support for a decision, adherence to it, and defense of it.

A democratic decision is one which everyone carries out accurately and determinedly, with no sluggishness, indifference, or selfishness. It is not my custom to spread your path with flowers and I will not do so. Nor is it my custom to deceive you by uttering sugar-coated words or by raising false hopes. However, I have consistently explained to you and to the people through you our planned ambitions—together with all concomitant hindrances and obstacles—and I have told you that these are years of renaissance.

Renaissance simply means that we get up from our spectator seats and go to the fields of the workers. It means that we leave the ill-willed critics' circles and rise to the dreams of the toilers and strugglers. [applause] It also means that we abandon the opposition's logic of distortion, instigation, and loud voices in order to participate, convinced in what must be done, which itself is self-evident. If we all find fault in others and others see fault in us, then which of us will work, build, and

establish the pillars of the proper society? How can we rise when the accusations exchanged almost constitute a call for stagnation and a retreat from reaching for the stars?

The renaissance man is one who starts with himself. Let each of us start with himself instead of destroying the efforts of others. Let each of us be the judge of his own words and deeds instead of issuing unjust verdicts against others. [applause]

Brothers and sisters, we do not want to be taken unaware and inadvertently turn into a society of spiteful critics, for we are a society of builders. Spitefulness would turn mankind into a jungle. Egypt can be nothing other than the land of justice and fraternity since it is the land of heavenly messages. These are messages of light, goodness, proper conduct, and lofty ethics. Religion is a form of worship, as is work. Spiritual values and high morals protect and safeguard us during our pure march of work.

If we want a comprehensive educational renaissance, then let the education of the spirit accompany the education of the mind. Let the institutions of knowledge become the centers of building the new man. Knowledge without sound character will bear no fruit; no good will come of stuffing minds with useless information.

Our youth are a trust in our hands and we must not squander this trust. The young represent ability, vitality, purity, and hope. Our responsibility to our youth is not limited to providing job opportunities and opening new horizons; it goes beyond this to setting a good example.

We want our youth to feel that they live in a society of solidarity, not a society of becoming rich from the sweat of others; a society of mutual agreement, not one of material selfishness, greed, and excess; a society of cooperation between the able and unable because they all stand in the same trench facing the same challenges.

How wonderful it is to see many people of means rushing to build schools and hospitals at a cost of millions of pounds each. If these are called self-motivated solutions because they stem from one's self, I call them social solutions because they perform a positive role in spreading social justice.

We are opening many new doors for our youth. Everything we have accomplished in the first 5-year development plan and seek to accomplish in the second is for the sake of ensuring a dignified and stable life for our youth, who will assume the leading responsibility for development in the coming generation. But I have said before and I say today that the people with means must contribute to establishing social justice. It is one of the guarantees of stability. We must not forget or ignore the building of the renaissance.

A basic and important role must be played by culture and the arts: Culture is a torch that lights the way for learning the true history of our country so that we may stay linked with our cultural roots for the perpetuation of our development and glory, and not our collapse or downfall. Culture is the window opened to human and international struggle, defending mankind's right to an honorable life. Culture is the basic ingredient for building the social conscience, which contributes to enriching the positive social personality and protects society against attempts to mislead it.

In my opinion, there is no dividing line between the message of culture and the message of art. Art is the food of the spirit and mind and the product of man's creative ability. My appeal from this rostrum to the men of culture and art, persons whom we place, along with scientists, in the most prominent place, is to fulfill the message of renaissance. This will lead to continuous development, strengthened ties of affiliation, and a consolidated society of brotherhood, love, and social justice.

Brothers and sisters, I hope that I did not burden you with this long statement. [laughter and applause] But my excuse is that I have tried, in every way, to cover every point on our path of enlightenment toward building the renaissance. What I have said is a sincere call for sharing and for the rallying of forces around realistic goals in order to transfer them from hope to reality. It is a call for sincere cooperation and honest intention.

All efforts must be united in one line, the line of confrontation, and in one battle, the battle of building the renaissance. We must deal with our burdens by ourselves. It is a miserable nation that appeals to others to help in its own renaissance.

I pray that experience has taught us that our development is the target of many evil and oppressive forces. The first protection of our development is national unity. [applause] This unity is enhanced by dialogue, not vituperations; by the ethics of dealing with each other, not by vile attacks; by tolerance, not fanaticism. We want to maintain harmony even if we disagree.

We want to draw closer to each other while we engage in dialogue. We want to enhance our values, not destroy what is good in our tradition. We are able to build factories, institutions, and houses; we are able to use the most modern means of education; and we are able to confront all difficulties, but we must first be able to live together as brothers in one loving family. A brother does not stab his own brother, nor does he cheat and deceive his family members. Our family is Egypt and Egypt is our life and future. [applause]

If we, brothers and sisters, pride ourselves in the "made in Egypt" label, our first sense of pride comes from the fact that we were born in Egypt, live in Egypt, and share in Egypt's renaissance. [applause]

Throughout our long history, hundreds of thousands of people gave their lives and were martyred for the sake of Egypt. The least we can do is make sacrifices in work and effort, without selfishness or attempting to usurp the rights of others. The best thing we can do is to take stock of ourselves before attempting to bring others to account.

We are advocates of victory and progress. There is no place in the renaissance for advocates of defeatism. Our processions are advancing towards the broadest horizons, united by comradeship and motivated by the calls of faith, principle, and ideology; we are facing our problems by ourselves with dignity and honor, moving with preparedness and united in courage and strength.

Those who maintain a negative attitude will be left behind. They must realize that the calls of despair and defeatism will vanish and change in a society that has decided to surge forward. Everything depends on our willpower. If we wish, the conscience of the people will be the motivator and monitor. If we want, each citizen will rise to meet his natural ability and achieve his legitimate hope.

Yes, our hopes are ambitious, and perhaps even extremely so, but with our resources we are able to achieve the most ambitious of goals. Yes, our view of the near and distant future is optimistic, but it is not an unrealizable goal formulated without calculation, or a dream without reality. The only way to reach our goal is for us to rise up with a united will. I appeal to men and women of all ages, in the city and village, in the factory, institution, field, and farm, in the big or small house; I appeal to the people with all their factions and sects to spark the renaissance, to turn every area in our country into a beehive of activity and an army of love and solidarity, sharing in the grand procession toward meeting our great ambitions.

The people are the heroes in the battles of construction. This is because there can be no construction without builders. Together we shall face the huge challenges in the field, factory, and everywhere. We pledge to close our ranks, unite our efforts, and increase our contribution to achieve the great renaissance in all parts of our beloved country, Egypt. [applause]

The people, brothers and sisters, are the creators and protectors of freedom. There can be no freedom without a free people. I extend my hand to every free hand that works and builds. I extend my hand to all Egyptians in all positions and in all parties who work together to enrich the government of the people by the will of the people for the good of the people. I am aligned with them, and my alignment will remain with them. [applause] My loyalty is to the will of the people after the will of Almighty God. The will of the people is created by God.

I pledge to stand in the forefront to lead the work and follow up production and development everywhere. My pledge before the people and before you is to abide by the honesty of the mission, fulfilling it together and guided by the religious and spiritual values that stem from true faith.

May God give us insight as He gives us sight. May God guide us on the right road. May God bless us with His wisdom and mercy to help us endure hardships as we develop ourselves and our lives to fill honest souls with the light of faith for man's happiness. May God, who hears and answers our prayers, grant us success. May God's peace and blessing be upon you. [applause]

Libya

Klibi Gives Leader Amman Summit Invitation

LD152326 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2300 GMT 15 Oct

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received Brother Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general, following his tour of the Arab east in which he met President Hafiz al-Asad and King Husayn.

Brother Chedli Klibi (?informed) the brother leader of the revolution about the tour and handed him a written message from King Husayn which includes an invitation to the brother leader of the revolution to attend the Arab summit conference.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Palestinian Officials

LD151516 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received 'Isam al-Qadi, secretary general of the Organization of Vanguards of the People's Liberation War—the Al-Sa'iqah Forces, and Taysir Quba'h, member of the PFLP Politburo.

U.S. 'Experts' Reportedly Arrive in Chad

LD151246 Tripoli JANA in English 1134 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] Koutoanou, Al-Tumur [October] 15, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—Reliable Chadian sources reported that more American experts had arrived during the past two days to Ndjamena to be immediately distributed between camps to train Habre's forces to fire missiles, specifically the "Stinger" missiles, arrived in new quantities to Ndjamena recently.

The agent Habre, sources added, is also preparing these days to send divisions of his gang to be trained in Egypt on artillery and tankers usages.

Morocco

EC Commission President Delors Begins Visit

Makes Arrival Statement

LD081913 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GTM 8 Oct 87

[Text] Rabat, 8 Oct (MAP)—Jacques Delors, president of the EC Commission, has said that his visit to Morocco comes within the context of both the message from His Majesty King Hassan II to the EEC Council of Ministers Presidency requesting that Morocco be admitted to the EEC and the reply to the Moroccan request.

In a press statement upon his arrival in Rabat he expressed the belief that "there is a much to be done in order to get to know the distinctive Moroccan position in the world and in this region in particular, and also to find formulas that allow the common aspirations and friendship that should be strengthened and also the obligations of this or that side to be taken into consideration."

Asked on the possibility of talks between Morocco and the EEC on the cooperation agreement signed in Rabat in April 1976 resuming, Delors replied that he will be able to answer this question in 2 days. He recalled the context of this visit and explained that, despite differences in the positions that he now holds and those of the past, he still has the same sympathies for Morocco. He added that the content of the messages between the EEC and Morocco make it possible to expect a satisfactory outcome for both sides, but that there is also a need to separate those messages and the outstanding agreements.

Delors' visit to Morocco is his first to an African and Arab state since he became president of the EC Commission in 1984.

Holds News Conference

LD101943 Rabat MAP in English 1240 GMT 10 Oct 87

[Text] Rabat, Oct 10 (MAP)—President of the European Communities' Commission Jacques Delors held here Friday, at the end of a three day state visit, a press conference during which he said he was optimistic as to the future of Moroccan-EEC relations.

Delors underscored that "the exchange of letters between King Hassan II and the EEC is a new political deal where the problem is not related to the membership but rather to the question to know whether Morocco can participate, in a realistic honest and frank context, in the European construction undertaking".

"Beyond the economic, financial and commercial problems," Delors said, "there was the sovereign's appeal that some sum up as an application for [EEC] membership, but which in fact goes further than that".

The royal letter, Delors went on to say, questions European countries on the world as it stands now, on the world as it will be, and on the world as it should be. "And it is in this context that the twelve [EEC members] have answered King Hassan", the EEC official said.

After he stressed again the importance of this exchange of letters, Delors said the Community grants particular interest to all aspects of Moroccan-EEC cooperation including the financial, commercial and fishing sectors.

Delors who then dealt with the various phases of the EEC enlargement said "the problems we must now settle with Morocco, and which we will positively settle, are connected to the latest EEC enlargement to Spain and Portugal."

Delors concluded his press conference by reaffirming his personal commitment to restore in the few coming months, in a tangible way, the climate of confidence and trust that must normally exist between Morocco and the EEC.

Before flying to Marrakesh for a two day private visit, Delors attended the opening ceremony of the parliamentary fall session that was chaired by King Hassan II.

Departs 11 Oct

LD112352 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Mr Jacques Delors, chairman of the EEC Commission, departed Morocco this morning. [passage omitted]

Tunisian Minister Baccouche Begins Visit

Arrives 8 Oct

LD092008 Rabat MAP in English 1159 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Text] Casablanca, Oct 9 (MAP)—Tunisian Minister of Social Affairs Hedi Baccouche arrived here Thursday night on a visit to Morocco during which he is to confer with Moroccan officials and attend today the opening session of the fourth legislative year of the Moroccan parliament.

Baccouche, who was welcomed by Minister of Labor Hassan Abbadi and Tunisian Ambassador to Morocco Fouad Mebazaa, told the press President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia asked him to convey greetings and best regards to King Hassan II and the Moroccan people.

Mebazaa and Moroccan Minister of Transports Mohamed Bouamoud earlier conferred on Moroccan-Tunisian cooperation in transport areas and friendly relations linking the two countries.

Meets With Premier Laraki

LD092013 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Excerpt] The visit of Hedi Baccouche, Tunisia's minister of social affairs, to Morocco was marked by a number of contacts today: He was received first by Premier Azzedine Laraki and then by the speaker of the house of representatives. There was also the signing of the minutes of the employment follow-up committee.

Mr Hedi Baccouche's talks with Dr Azzedine Laraki focused on the means for bolstering cooperation in various spheres between the two fraternal countries as well as vistas for mutual cooperation in the employment field in light of the follow-up committee's findings. The Tunisian minister also discussed with the speaker of the house of representatives means for consolidating relations between the two country's legislative bodies and reviewed the deep, brotherly ties between Morocco and Tunisia.

At the Ministry of Labor, the Tunisian minister of social affairs and Hassan Abbadi, the minister of labor, signed, following a working session attended by the two countries' delegations, the minutes of the employment follow-up committee.

The minutes dealt with cooperation between Morocco and Tunisia in the labor, employment, social security, and training fields; the exchange of expertise in these fields; and the topic of Maghreb communities in Europe to coordinate the two countries' stances when dealing with issues of the Moroccan and Tunisian colonies abroad. [passage omitted]

Makes Departure Statement

LD122137 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Oct 87

[Text] Hedi Baccouche, Tunisia's minister of social affairs, departed Morocco this morning at the conclusion of his visit to our country. During his visit, he was received by His Majesty King Hassan II and attended the opening session of the House of Deputies' new legislative year.

The Tunisian minister of social affairs and the Moroccan minister of labor signed the minutes of the follow-up committee which held meetings in Rabat over a period of 3 days to strengthen cooperation between the countries in the fields of work and labor.

In a statement made before departing Morocco, Hedi Boccouche announced that his visit enabled him to convey the greetings and appreciation of President Habib Bourguiba to his majesty the king, and that he discussed Tunisian-Moroccan relations and the situation in the Arab Maghreb region with his majesty.

He explained that these talks came within preparations to create suitable conditions for establishing Maghreb solidarity and removing all obstacles that obstruct the realization of the regional countries' aspirations to coordinate their potential and solidarity with each other.

He also said that his meeting with the prime minister and the speaker of the House of Deputies have always moved toward strengthening bilateral relations between Morocco and Tunisia, in a framework of action to create a joint and coordinated perception of the future.

He stressed that the agreement he signed with the minister of labor in the fields of work and social security constitues a basis to benefit the Arab Maghreb with a view to coordinating the regional countries' positions concerning issues of the Maghreb communities in Europe.

Sudan

Parties Issue Statements on Convoy Ambush

EA160958 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Oct 87

["Text" of statements issued by the Ummah Party and the Democratic Unionist Party regarding the 14 October rebel ambush of a relief train convoy in Bahr al-Ghazal Province; date and place of issuance not given]

[Excerpts] Statement from the Ummah Party to the masses of the Sudanese people:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful; may God send peace to the leader of the messengers. Respected citizens: Yesterday evening our Armed Forces issued a detailed statement concerning the treacherous attack on the relief train headed from Ariath station towards Uwayl. The attack was carried out by 4,000 troops belonging to the rebel stooge, John Garang. A group of our heroic soldiers and a number of civilian railway workers were martyred.

The Armed Forces confronted these gangs and inflicted major losses on them, with the remnants of the gangs fleeing to the forests to face their preordained fate of sorrow, disgrace, and degradation.

The Ummah Party condemns the rebel stooge movement's barbaric conduct, the aim of which is to deprive the citizens of relief supplies and expose southerners to death and hunger. Hundreds, even thousands, of them have been forced to flee due to the criminal and inhuman circumstances imposed on them by the rebel movement, its stepped-up looting and pillaging of citizens' property, and the resulting destabilization and insecurity.

The Ummah Party, in condemning this act, requests all political and mass forces to rise in support of the homeland, to stand in a united, impregnable rank with our Armed Forces and utilize every avenue to eliminate the rebellious soldiers and their leaders.

Some parties and groups continue to take advantage of the security prevailing inside the country to sympathize with and support the rebel movement. After the events in Ariath and previous events, when civilian planes and others were shot down, such behavior will be considered an act of treachery against the unity of the homeland.

We appreciate the efforts by certain quarters to bring the Sudanese people good news about serious work for a peaceful solution, including the latest attempt by some southern parties in Addis Ababa, Nairobi, and Kampala, as well as their statements and those by the stooge John Garang. Nevertheless, the result was that the rebellious movement showed its contempt for the Sudanese people and manifested its evil intentions by what it did at Ariath. [passage omitted]

The Ummah Party maintains its firm position that a peaceful solution is the only alternative for all the Sudanese people. The approach to the rebel movement must be clear: There is no room for entering into any type of agreement with it until it promises the Sudanese people and proves to the Armed Forces that it has completely given up all its criminal activities. The rebel movement must completely satisfy the Sudanese people that it is seriously seeking a peaceful solution, confirming this in words and deeds. [passage omitted]

Here is the statement from the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP]:

The Armed Forces General Command has reported the attack carried out by forces of the rebel John Garang on a convoy carrying food to citizens in Bahr al-Ghazal who are in dire need of sustenance. [passage omitted]

The DUP announces its firm support for peace and coexistence in the construction of the country and the achievement of a self-sufficient and just society based on great Islam. It thus condemns this aggression. The Party warns that the path followed by rebel John Garang's movement will only lead to increased bloodshed and the squandering of the Sudanese people's resources.

We stand behind our Armed Forces and our heroic soldiers; we firmly support them. They are working to overcome backwardness and hostility. We request our masses to be aware and form a solid front for work and construction in facing the conspiracies and hostility.

Victory and dignity for Sudan!

The Democratic Unionist Party.

National Radio, TV Officials 'Pensioned Off'

EA160854 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] The Council of Ministers issued a decree implementing the recommendation of the acting minister of culture and information [name not given] that Muawiyah Hasan Fadlallah, the director general of the National Radio and Television Corporation; Abbas Ahmad Husayn, director of television; and Muhammad Ibrahim al-Adil, the deputy director of television, be pensioned off. The decree takes effect today, 15 October 1987.

Tunisia

2 Islamic Fundamentalist Leaders Arrested

LD151450 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] Police in Tunisia have arrested two leaders of the Islamic Tendency Movement [ITM]. One of them was sentenced to death in absentia on September by the state's security court. For more information we now go to Tunis and to Karim Mersaoui:

[Mersaoui] Among the 90 fundamentalists convicted last month by the state's security court, 7 of whom were sentenced to death, 37 were sentenced in absentia. Now there are only 35 still at large.

In the last few hours 'Ali Laaridh, who was sentenced to capital punishment, and Fadel Beldi, who was sentenced to external labor, have been arrested by the police. Both of them were considered among the ITM's principal leaders.

The authorities have not provided any details on the circumstances or location of the arrest of the two condemned men, who at the time were at large.

'Ali Laaridh, who was wanted by the police for several months, had earlier from his hiding place granted a number of interviews to numerous foreign journalists in which he threatened the authorities with bloody reprisals should the fundamentalists be executed.

Laaridh and Beldi will have a second chance because Tunisian law allows a review of trials when verdicts are reached in absentia.

Inter-Gulf Affairs

French Navy Discovers Two Mines Near UAE

LD161201 Paris Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] The French fleet in the Gulf yesterday discovered two mines near the UAE. This discovery brings to six the number of mines detected by the Navy's special group since it arrived in the Persian Gulf.

Kuwait

Reportage on Missile Strike on Reflagged Tanker

12 Crewmen Injured

LD160730 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0720 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, 16 October—A responsible source has stated that a U.S. oil by-products tanker at dawn today, in Kuwaiti territorial waters, was struck by a missile similar to that which hit a Liberian tanker yesterday.

The source told KUNA that the tanker involved, the *Sea Isle City*—formerly the *Umm al-Maradim*—is one of the 11 Kuwaiti oil tankers which Kuwait had reregistered in the United States following growing attacks on oil tankers and neutral commercial vessels in the Arab Gulf's waters.

The source pointed out that the missile struck the right side of the sailors' quarters, thus causing 12 casualties among the tanker's crew. The vessel belongs to the U.S. (?Chasebeck) Company, which specializes in transporting oil by-products.

The source affirmed that the 80,000-ton tanker was empty at the time of the attack and that while fire broke out on it, firemen managed to put the fire out.

The source said that the tanker was anchored 10 miles south of Al-Shu'aybah port, which is almost the same spot where the Liberian tanker was anchored when it was attacked by an Iranian missile that caused fires to break out on it.

Cabinet Discusses Attack

LD161015 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0950 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Oct—Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid [minister of state for cabinet affairs] has made the following statement:

This morning Iran carried out yet another action in its series of acts of aggression on Kuwait. It fired a missile that struck the U.S.-flagged oil tanker *Sea Isle City* in Kuwaiti territorial waters and injured its captain and 17 of its crew, some of whom suffered serious injuries, in addition to causing material damage.

Measures have been taken to treat the injured and to contain the incident.

Following these repeated serious acts of Iranian aggression against Kuwait, an emergency Cabinet meeting was held this morning at Al-Sha'b Palace. It was chaired by Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister.

The Cabinet reviewed the details, consequences, and dimensions of these acts of aggression and the ensuing escalation of tension in the region, as well as these acts' threat to regional security and stability—something that makes the international community face their responsibility to confront this grave escalation and contain its repercussions for the sake of establishing the desired peace.

The Cabinet also discussed appropriate steps and measures to be taken in light of this incident, as well as its dimensions.

Bahrain Offers Support

LD161108 Kuwait KUNA in English 1032 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 16 (KUNA)—His highness the crown prince and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah received a telephone call from Prime Minister of Bahrain Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman al Khalifah in which he expressed the support of Bahrain, its amir, government and people to Kuwait in the light of the repeated Iranian aggressions on Kuwait.

Iran 'Intent on Dragging' Nation Into War

LD160908 Kuwait KUNA in English 0807 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 16 (KUNA)—Two leading Kuwaiti newspapers expressed belief Friday that recalcitrant and desperate Iran is intent on dragging Kuwait into the inferno of the Iran-Iraq war, and they cited yesterday's Iranian missile attack on a Liberian tanker in Kuwaiti territorial waters.

"Hitting the tanker *Sungari* was a deliberate act of flaring up offshoot wars of the Iraq-Iran conflict, and stood witness to a dangerous development in Iranian policy towards Kuwait," commented the daily *Al-Qabas*.

Though supportive of Arab Iraq, Kuwait is a staunch proponent of peace not only in the Gulf region but the world at large, and is seeking neighborly relations with Iran, the paper went on.

Al-Qabas added that the Iranian attack on *Sungari*, in Kuwaiti territorial water, could have been designed to expand foreign naval intervention in the Gulf region to include the territorial waters of neutral Arab Gulf states.

"Against this background, the final Iranian aggression is soon coming, and proof to the contrary is lacking," the newspaper concluded. The daily *Al-Ra'y al-'Amm* emphasized that "the Iranian aggression on Kuwait had grossly exposed the scale of international indifference to the grave events in the Arabian Gulf region."

The missile attack, the paper added, represented a clear indication of Iran's obdurate rejection of all peace calls including U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 demanding a ceasefire and subsequent peace talks.

"The fresh Iranian aggression on Kuwait, and the wanton massacre of Iraqi school children in an Iranian rocket attack on Baghdad underlined the need to draft mandatory sanctions at the U.N. against the Tehran regime," the newspaper went on.

"Tough and practical measures are needed to bridle Iranian insolence and aggression on non-belligerent Gulf states," the paper added.

AL-Ra'y al-'Amm expressed belief that differences between the five big powers of the U.N. Security Council is encouraging Tehran's war efforts.

"Let no more time be wasted by the shuttle diplomacy of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and others. The key to resolving the conflict is with the countries which could affect Iranian oil sales and arms procurement," the paper concluded.

Attack May Widen War

LD161154 Kuwait KUNA in English 1035 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 16 (KUNA)—A local daily newspaper Friday said the call made by Kuwait on the international community to shoulder its responsibility by deterring Iranian aggressions should be received with due attention by the United Nations and the Security Council.

Al-Ittihad newspaper said the missile attack on a Liberian oil tanker in Kuwaiti territorial waters is a dangerous incident that has been carried out on the eve of the tour by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz that will end in Moscow, where the Iran-Iraq war is sure to be on the agenda.

The newspaper emphasized the importance of a serious and responsible effort toward bringing the Iran-Iraq war to an end.

The paper added that the Kuwaiti call for speeding up efforts for the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 598 "is a fair demand" because what happened against Kuwait yesterday carried signs of the danger of spreading the war as had been cautioned by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states.

The paper concluded saying that the threat of spreading the war has been posing with every day passing without putting an end to the fighting, that is currently in its 8th year, and without seizing the international attention it deserves.

Oman

Information Minister on Gulf War, Mediation

JN141904 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 13 Oct 87 pp 1, 21

[Interview with Minister of Information 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rawwas by Sayyid 'Uthman in Muscat—date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Uthman] Recent indications are that Oman has been nominated for the role of mediator to avert an expansion of the Gulf war, in preparation for a comprehensive resolution to this war. Is there a possibility of launching such an initiative at present?

[Al-Rawwas] I would like to affirm at the beginning that it is natural for Oman to have normal and close relations with all of its neighbors, based on ties of joint destiny and historical and geographical considerations. These make it inevitable for us to establish relations with our neighbors, relations that will open the way for dialogue to know our problems. There should be open bridges so that we do not rely on external mediators who do not care about our interests and who might ruin mediation efforts.

In view of all this, his majesty the sultan's government is endeavoring to stop this war, a conflict we greatly regret since it destroys both countries' economies and destroys Muslim lives. Our religious teachings say that believers are brothers, that they should not fight one another. Therefore, in cooperation with our GCC brothers, we are endeavoring to promote dialogue and find effective means of disengaging Iraq and Iran.

Omani policy is based on firm principles. We are an Arab, Islamic, Gulf state and an active member of the international community. All these considrations are interconnected and cannot be separated. Therefore, we are employing all our resources and efforts to find an effective, speedy means of ending the war, which has destroyed efforts of 25 years of work in the two warring countries. Only the enemies of these countries and the region benefit from this war.

As for mediation efforts, we would like to note that these efforts will succeed only if the two warring sides accept mediation. We will not hesitate to play a mediatory role if we are asked to do so.

['Uthman] Does this mean that there is an actual intention to start this mediation to end the state of tension and avoid the war's expansion?

[Al-Rawwas] As I said, the Sultanate's efforts to contain the dangers of the war have not stopped, both in its individual capacity and in cooperation with the GCC states. Efforts are being exerted through diplomatic channels with all parties that can participate.

I would like to explain that diplomatic efforts cannot be erected like a building that can be seen by all; these efforts are an attempt to implement ideas on Gulf peace and security. These efforts have been approved by successive GCC summits, which also called for maintaining channels of dialogue with Iran to ease the crisis and end the Iraq-Iran war. These summits also approved continued efforts with the large powers to end the war and ward off the dangers.

All these efforts are continuing, and we will intensify them as much as possible. We still have hope, for if we lose hope we will despair, and the result will be further destruction, which is something we strongly reject. [passage omitted]

['Uthman] How do you evaluate Arab conditions prior to the convocation of the Amman summit on 8 November?

[Al-Rawwas] We have great expectations for the upcoming Amman summit and hope that it will not be an end in itself but will instead produce positive results and a unified Arab position. Here I would like to note that His Majesty King Husayn has exerted great efforts to provide a suitable atmosphere for the summit. This makes us optimistic. We hope the summit will produce great results. [passage omitted]

['Uthman] What is Oman's position on the issue of comprehensive Gulf security, and what are the practical implications of your position?

[Al-Rawwas] The cornerstone of Omani policy is noninterference in the affairs of others. We also do not allow others to interfere in our affairs. This is a basic principle in all countries. We reject any attempt to interfere in the affairs of any sisterly state. Therefore, we stand by Kuwait and consider the security of Kuwait and Oman to be one and the same. This is what we are stressing in the GCC interior ministers' meetings.

The collective GCC efforts have produced an agreement on security strategy, one was reached and signed in Oman this year. We must point out that what harms one [state] harms everyone and leads to bad consequences.

PDRY

Al-Bid Speaks on Revolution Anniversary

EA141246 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Oct 87

[Speech by 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, on the 24th anniversary of the 14 October Revolution; place not specified—recorded]

[Excerpts] Dear Comrades, Masses of our great Yemeni people: Today we celebrate the 24th anniversary of the glorious 14 October Revolution, soon after our people's celebration of the immortal 26 September Revolution's silver jubilee. These two revolutions launched a new era for our Yemeni homeland and opened wider horizons for development and progress. They were eloquent expressions of the unity of the Yemeni people's aims and destiny. Just 1 year after the mother revolution of 26 September, the 14 October Revolution was launched from the lofty Radfan Mountains under the leadership of the National Front. [passage omitted]

Dear comrades, masses of our great people, the announcement of the discovery of oil in Democratic Yemen in April this year was the first step toward an overall development of this vital and important sector of our national economy. The discovery was recorded in the general agreement on cooperation between our country and the USSR for an integrated exploitation of the Shabwah region's oil fields. Within 2 months, September and October of this year, the Yemeni and Soviet experts held extensive discussions to evaluate the oil reserves and prepared special plans for the first phase of exploiting the Shabwah region's newly discovered oil fields.

This phase initially include the continuing of geological and exploratory work and the laying of a pipeline to the seashore. Other subjects relate to supplying the oilfields with energy and setting up infrastructures such as roads and civil installations. We can say today that there are clear indications that the exploitation of oil in Democratic Yemen will ensure a yield that will raise the level of all sectors of the national economy and raise the popular masses' standard of living in our country. [passage omitted]

We also regard the reunification of the Yemeni homeland—both land and people— as a major cause. We are working tirelessly to achieve this goal which is dear to our people. We are continuing the joint, coordinated steps with our brothers in the northern part of the homeland, steps that should lay solid foundations for unity by peaceful and democratic means.

Comrades, our region is passing through very complicated circumstances due to the escalating Zionist imperialist onslaught against our Arab peoples, an onslaught that aims at damaging the sovereignty and independence of our countries and continuing to exploit our resources. They are striving to create tension in various places in order to justify their interference in various countries' internal affairs.

The intense U.S. imperialist and Atlantic presence in the Gulf is nothing but a manifestation of the threat to the sovereignty, security, and stability of our countries, the countries of the region. This presence undoubtedly escalates tension and does not help to solve existing problems. We express concern at the escalation of this presence, which makes the situation in the Gulf more dangerous and more explosive. Since the beginning of

the Iran-Iraq war, our country has opposed this war, a conflict that has drained the human and material potentials and capabilities of two neighboring peoples.

These are potentials that could have been directed against a common enemy—U.S. imperialism and Zionism. We still appeal to the two warring parties to end this destructive war. We also express our support for the peaceful efforts to settle this dispute on the basis of Security Council Resolution 598, efforts undertaken by the United Nations and its secretary general.

The Zionist enemy's continued usurpation of the Palestinian Arab people's national rights, its repeated aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, and its occupation of Arab territories also escalate tension and threaten world security and peace.

No solution can be found to the Middle East problem without ensuring the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. We therefore support collective efforts to convene an international Middle East peace conference with full powers, one in which all parties concerned, including the Palestinians as represented by the PLO—their sole legitimate representative—should be represented.

The efforts being made by the friendly USSR for peace, the establishment of a comprehensive system of international security, and its announcement of the principle of disarmament for development—this was received with great satisfaction by the developing countries—all these not only express the USSR's sincere wish for peace but also accord with the interests of our countries, which yearn for construction, development, and the raising of the people's living standard.

It is for this reason that we must express our full support for the course of peace followed by the friendly USSR and the socialist community countries. We have complete faith that the path of progress and prosperity of the peoples is no more than the path of comprehensive peace for the world.

In conclusion, comrades, I am pleased to address to you all my warmest and heartfelt congratulations on this immortal occasion and its achievements, of which we are proud. We wish the masses of our people further progress, prosperity, and stability, with complete loyalty to the memory of our dutiful martyrs. We are totally confident of achieving the objectives of the Yemeni revolution. Peace be upon you.

Yemen Arab Republic

President Interviewed on Gulf War, Summit

JN142016 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Oct 87

["Text" of interview with Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president, Armed Forces commander in chief, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, with unidentified correspondent, published in 14 October issue of the Lebanese magazine *Al-Sayyad*—date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Correspondent] Reports on oil discoveries in the YAR promise a prosperous economic situation for the country. What is the capacity of the oil wells that have been discovered so far? What are the country's future oil prospects? Also, has the YAR mapped out an oil policy?

[Salih] Oil discoveries herald good tidings. The significance of the modest oil quantities we will export in the near future lies in the fact that we will use their reveneus to implement productive development projects, particularly in the agricultural sphere. We hope that through these projects, we will be able to attain a certain measure of self-sufficiency in the field of nutrition and the people's basic commodities. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] There have been many reports that reunification talks for the two parts of Yemen will be invigorated. What is the status of these talks, particularly since the changes in the southern part of Yemen, and what is the YAR's policy on this vital issue?

[Salih] The reunification of Yemen is a national and strategic objective the great 26 September [1962] Revolution seeks to attain. This is because the Yemeni people in the two parts of the homeland believe that again attaining unity is a noble national objective and a legitimate right. To achieve this objective, our people over the past years have succeeded in bringing about several joint unity measures, especially the completion of the draft project on the unitary state constitution, which is expected to be referred to the respective people's assemblies in the two parts of Yemen for a decision.

We were careful that the initiatives and the efforts under way to attain unity would not be affected by the regrettable incidents in the southern part of the homeland of 13 January 1986. These incidents have had some negative results, but we are seeking a solution to these results.

[Correspondent] Mr President, the Gulf war has become a source of major concern in and outside the region. How do you see a solution to the conflict in the Gulf, and do you believe that a solution is possible in light of the way regional and international factors are enmeshed?

[Salih] We have announced our country's rejection of this war. Our country has contributed to many Arab and Islamic efforts to end the war. We also support fraternal Iraq's readiness to halt the war. We hope that Iran's officials will respond to the international efforts and initiatives. The war's prolongation will kill more innocent people and squander the resources of the two neighboring Muslim countries. The war has become a source of anxiety and tension in the region. Only the enemy forces, particularly the Zionist enemy, have benefited from this war.

[Correspondent] Since we are discussing the Gulf war, how do you view the U.S. stand on the current conflict, especially since the latest reports show that there is a contradiction between actual U.S. practices and the stands announced through the media?

[Salih] It goes without saying that every country has its own calculations that dictate the stand it adopts on this war. Our hope is that Iran's leaders will respond to the efforts being exerted to end this war.

[Correspondent] Intensive contacts are being held in the United Nations to discuss the possibility of implementing Resolution No 598 calling for an end to the Iraq-Iran war. Do you believe that this resolution can be implemented, and if so, how?

[Salih] We believe that any solution taking into account the two parties' legitimate rights must be welcomed by Iraq and Iran to end the war. We also believe that intensive international efforts and serious practical steps are needed to implement UN Security Council Resolution No 598.

[Correspondent] Much is said from time to time about Arab solidarity, given that it is the best means for solving Arab problems. However, it seems that the upcoming Arab summit in Amman is foundering. Do you believe that the Arab summit can be held, and when? If it convenes, will its resolutions enjoy unanimity, particularly on the level of implementation?

[Salih] Arab meetings seeking to enhance the means and scope of cooperation are absolutely indispensable. Our country is eager to adopt an Arab policy that always calls for Arab solidarity and works to overcome peripheral differences. From this premise, we support every effort that seeks to eliminate these differences and that also seeks to remove obstacles blocking the Arab summit's convocation. Generally speaking, I believe that it is necessary to eliminate the causes hindering the Arab summit's convocation. This is dictated by the dangers that are engulfing the entire Arab nation.

As for the second part of your question, implementation of the resolutions adopted by the Arab summit is dictated by the dangers and provocations the Arab homeland is experiencing. This makes everyone dutybound to abide by all Arab decisions and conventions. [passage omitted]

Gulf War Operations, Air Strikes Continue

Communique No 2,875 Issued

JN151515 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1443 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Communique No 2,875 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 15 October]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassiona e. Praise be to God; support comes from God. It is our inalienable, legitimate right to cut off oil supplies and strike at the vital installations of the criminal Iranian regime that insists on war and aggression against our country and stupidly rejects calls for peace. This regime employs all Iranian economic resources in the service of its aggressive war efforts.

To deprive this regime of these resources, aircraft of our gigantic Air Force today continued to penetrate deep inside Iran to carry out, with human bravery and efficiency and with the force of truth, the following heroic missions:

1. At 1230 [0930 GMT] today, scores of our planes launched a violent air raid on selected oil targets in the Aqha Jari oil field. They destroyed their targets and set them ablaze.

2. At the same time, scores of our planes launched a violent raid on the oil loading jetty in the Emam Hasan oil field and destroyed their targets.

3. At the same time, scores of our planes delivered a violent blow to the Ghareh oil installations, setting their targets on fire.

After carrying out all these missions, all our aircraft returned to the homeland safely and victorious, in God's care and protection.

We affirm before the entire world that our blows to economic installations related to the war effort will continue until the Iranian regime unequivocally accepts the Security Council Resolution [598] as an indivisible whole and implements its articles in sequence.

Pride and glory to the men of our heroic Air Force. Victory comes from God.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 15 October 1987

Communique No 2,876 Issued

JN151728 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1710 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Communique No 2,876 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 15 October]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious forces inflicted new losses on the enemy scoundrels, weapons, and equipment during the following combat activities from last night and today:

1. Our daring helicopter gunships carried out 31 combat sorties in which they inflicted losses in the aggressors' personnel, hardware, and equipment. Our aircraft then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. In the I Army Corps northern sector, two enemy personnel were killed and one ammunition dump was destroyed.

3. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, five infantry positions, one Poclain excavator, and one grader were destroyed and one scoundrel was killed.

4. In the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris, one heavy machinegun and one infantry position were destroyed.

5. Using long-range artillery, the evil clique ruling in Tehran shelled residential areas in the city of Basra and in Qal'at Dizah and Chuwartah. A number of civilians, including several children, were wounded, and a number of houses were demolished and others were damaged as a result. A swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 15 October 1987

Plane Denied Downed 15 Oct

JN151826 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1814 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Oct (INA)—Iraq has denied Iranian claims concerning the downing of any Iraqi aircraft. In a statement to INA this evening, an Iraqi military spokesman said that all Iraqi planes carrying out missions today returned safely to base. The spokesman said the Iranian regime is accustomed to such lies and stated: We challenge the Iranian regime to prove the opposite.

2 'Maritime Targets' Hit

JN151850 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1831 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 15 October]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Iraq's violent and continuous blows to the Iranian regime's oil supplies and to installations that supply and support the aggressive war efforts are the best way to destroy that regime's aggression and its ability to

continue its course, which calls for continuing the w[illegible] and for repeating aggressions against our homeland, Iraq, and against the other Arab states.

Our heroic Air Force will not stop dealing painful blows to that criminal, evil clique ruling Iran. Our Air Force continues to hammer on enemy heads and to destroy every target serving their vile purposes on land and at sea, day and night.

At 1830 [1530 GMT], our heroic Air Force launched two successful raids on two large maritime targets near the Iranian coast, dealing an accurate, effective blow to each. Our aircraft then returned safely to base, in God's care and protection.

[Dated] 15 October 1987

Peres Greets Shultz, Notes 'Hope' for Mission

TA161036 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1003 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Welcome address in English by Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz upon his arrival at Ben-Gurion Airport; live—indistinct passages caused by IDF Radio political correspondent 'Oz Frankel's superimposing remarks in Hebrew]

[Text] Mr Secretary and Mrs Shultz and your distinguished delegation: You are more than welcome to our country. We receive you in a capacity which we shall never be forgotten: As a great friend of our people, as a real friend of our country, and as an outstanding statesman of our time.

We have followed with admiration and hope the negotiations you conducted with the Soviet Union to introduce more light into international relations and less tension among nations.

Mr Secretary, yesterday was an exciting day for our country. We welcomed Ida Nudel home. Her coming was indeed a moving event, and your part in making it possible was equally moving.

We look upon your mission with hope. The relations between our two countries are at their best. You have contributed to keeping Israel's security strong, the Jewish people free to reach the shores of their homeland, and the region seriously striving to achieve peace within itself.

One cannot force. One has to [word indistinct] and this will make [words indistinct] what peace can [words indistinct], how strong [words indistinct], and I am confident that we can negotiate the remaining obstacles.

Mr Shultz, you are a man of peace. Welcome to a country united in its search for peace.

PLO To Boycott Shultz Territories Meetings

TA160926 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 16 Oct 87 p 1

[Text] The PLO is demanding that public figures in the territories not meet with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who has asked that meetings with such figures be included on his agenda.

The ITIM correspondent in the south Yitzhaq Levinson has learned that figures from the territories who are identified as pro-Jordanian will meet with Shultz and those who are identified with the PLO will boycott the visit. Heading the public figures from the territories who will meet with Shultz is former Gaza Mayor Rashad al-Shawwa, who is considered to be Jordan's unofficial "ambassador" in the territories.

Rabin on Gaza Violence, Peace Conference, Gulf

TA141422 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 14 Oct 87 pp 5, 6

[Interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Dalya Shehori in Rabin's office: "Deportation Is the Most Efficient Weapon"—date not given]

[Text] [Shehori] The attack against Yig'al Shahaf and his killing in the Old City have again put the death penalty on the public agenda. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has changed his position. He favors the death penalty now in "cases that are particularly inhuman." Has there also been a change in your position on this problem?

[Rabin] At this stage I see no reason to change the approach that exists today. In practice the military courts can legally impose the death penalty. The administrative guidelines set for prosecutors is not to demand it. The circumstances that led me not to support the death penalty in the past have not changed.

[Shehori] Shamir has changed his approach.

[Rabin] Not only Shamir. Amnon Rubinstein supports it. This is not necessarily divided according to political lines now.

[Shehori] What is the position of the defense establishment?

[Rabin] I do not know what their position is at present. In the past they were not in favor.

[Shehori] Following the latest attacks, the question again arises—Ari'el Sharon will undoubtedly raise it again in the Cabinet—of whether or not the measures being used against terrorism are sufficient, or should further measures be taken.

[Rabin] We are working against terrorism with all the tools possible within the framework of the law, and from time to time we adapt the methods. I see no reason today to alter legislation on these issues because I am not certain that any change in the situation would result. I have no doubt that if it had been easier to take such steps as deportation, it would have turned out to be the most effective weapon. People are being deported now, too, but the process is very complicated and involved. In my opinion detention is less grave a punishment for some of the perpetrators than deportation with a ban on returning to Judaea and Samaria or Gaza.

[Shehori] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is coming here on Friday. Do you know if he is coming here with new ideas?

[Rabin] I do not know.

[Shehori] You are familiar with the parameters of the U.S. position, the Israeli position, and what is happening inside the Cabinet. What type of talks might there be with Shultz? What could they lead to?

[Rabin] First of all the background must be considered. In the United States and throughout the world, when the Middle East comes up for discussion the issue at the top of the list is the Gulf war. The Arab-Israeli dispute—in the United States and also in Europe—is currently secondary because it is not urgent for anyone. In contrast to this, both the United States and the European countries are currently involved in the Gulf with their navies, naval personnel, and pilots. As the world sees it today, when there is talk of the Middle East, the Gulf has priority. There is a sort of inter-superpower competition involved, too. This topic is of interest to both superpowers, more than the problem of the Arab-Israeli dispute.

[Shehori] This being so, we could ask even more forcefully why Shultz is passing through here on his way to Moscow.

[Rabin] I do not know. Nor have I heard that there are any new ideas.

[Shehori] What does Moscow think about the international conference? To what extent is it really interested in getting into the negotiation picture?

[Rabin] The conference is of great interest to Moscow. We must remember that the Soviet Union was not a partner in the main political achievement in the Middle East, the peace between Egypt and Israel. It does not want to be out of the picture because that would underline its absence of influence in anything connected with a solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute, which is currently not the most important thing in the Middle East, not even from Moscow's viewpoint.

[Shehori] Is there any price you think the Soviet Union will want to pay to participate in an international conference?

[Rabin] No, at this stage I do not see any Soviet willingness to pay a price beyond what it paid in the wake of its comprehensive strategy toward the United States. With all due respect to our problems, which are very important and involve us, in Soviet policy at present, the main issue is relations between the two superpowers; and in the Middle East, the main issue is the Persian Gulf.

[Shehori] Can there be any sort of situation in negotiations between the two powers in which the United States would agree to concede something at Israel's expense?

[Rabin] I find it difficult to see this. I think there is an awareness now in the United States that it would be better to place the responsibility for solving the dispute on both sides. This is from the simple recognition that the superpowers cannot actually impose anything, certainly not peace. In general, if the desire to solve the dispute does not come from the sides concerned, others cannot solve it for them. The era in which superpowers could impose things is over. Where have they stepped in? Look at what is happening between Iraq and Iran. Can the superpowers impose anything? Through their involvement they can add to the forces of both sides. But can they impose anything? They passed a resolution in the UN Security Council. So what.

[Shehori] But if the U.S. Administration wants to impose something it is in a more convenient position now than it was 2 year ago. For instance, Reagan is moving toward the end of his term in office and may want to reach some sort of possible achievement in the Middle East...

[Rabin] No. The main problem for both superpowers now is in their economies. That is Gorbachev's motivation. In the United States today there is also the problem of an unbalanced budget, a deficit, and the drop in the dollar. Without slowing down the strategic arms race, which is relevant for both powers, it is impossible to effect a significant cut in national spending.

Therefore both of them are interested in limiting the arms race. The Reagan administration is focusing on attaining strategic agreements with the Soviet Union. The Americans consider this their main issue. If the agreement on intermediate-range and short-range nuclear missiles comes into effect, it would be the first real significant agreement on eliminating strategic weapons. Attempts are therefore being made in that direction.

[Shehori] From what you say it follows that we are not particularly important today at all.

[Rabin] I did not say that. We are a focus of attention but within realistic proportions. That is how the superpowers and Europe see things. Nothing here is on the brink of a conflagration.

[Shehori] If that is the case, I ask again: Why is Shultz coming here? And for intensive talks, too: four meetings with Shamir, four with Peres, working teams...

[Rabin] I will be wiser in another week.

[Shehori] If the Arab-Israeli dispute "is not urgent" for the superpowers, that means that Shamir can keep adhering to his position. After all, it does not really make much of a difference...

[Rabin] When the sides have no desire to really push the matter, I do not see the Americans taking anybody's place. They can help both sides. They cannot substitute for them.

[Shehori] Are Shamir's repeated calls to Husayn to come to direct negotiations on autonomy genuine? Is this a serious alternative to the international conference?

[Rabin] To this day Husayn is the person who has insisted on an international conference. The international conference is not the dream of our lives. Direct negotiations between two sides—with Palestinians who are not members of the PLO, with only U.S. participation—would be preferable. In any event, this is something that proved itself with Egypt. For lack of an alternative we agreed to an international conference on the condition that it leads to direct negotiations. The man who has stood firm to this day in his insistence on holding an international conference is Husayn. For the moment I see no reason why he should change his position. But the question is, first of all, what we are doing.

[Shehori] You are also going to meet with Shultz on Sunday morning. At his last meeting with Peres he asked us to soften our refusal on the supply of U.S. weapons to Saudi Arabia.

[Rabin] I have not heard that Peres has changed his position. An Israeli leader cannot say he does not care if weapons are supplied to a country that says it is in a state of war with Israel. The position is one of principle. It is practical and moral. What Israeli leader inside or outside the Cabinet can do other than oppose the sale of arms to an Arab country that stresses it is in a state of war with us?

[Shehori] To what extent does the postponement of the Voice of America project harm us?

[Rabin] The call to postpone that came from the United States. It was not an Israeli initiative. We decided to grant the appeal, with each adding all sorts of restrictions. Now the Americans come along and proclaim a freeze. So now everyone is crying over two things: One; that an agreement has been signed, therefore it must be honored, even one between a superpower and a small country. The other is that it is an economic loss for Israel.

[Shehori] But there were also significant reservations about the project.

[Rabin] Yes, at the stage when the United States was the one who was asking. Now that the Americans are cancelling it, I have not heard anyone sigh with relief.

[Shehori] And you yourself?

[Rabin] I understand the economic problems. It is an investment of $250 million in Israel, plus permanent employment for people in the 'Arava region where there is not much employment. If we want to increase the population in that area, we must find sources of income.

[Shehori] But the Soviet Union will be less angry with us if we do not help transmit Voice of America programs to it, and we will also adhere less to the United States.

[Rabin] Really? An annual $3 billion in aid and we should adhere less to the United States? We are milking it, not adhering to it.

[Shehori] What is happening with regard to the U.S. commitment concerning the cancellation of the Lavi project?

[Rabin] According to Shultz' letter to Shamir, and especially according to Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger's letter to me, the United States has met all the commitments they made. In other words, Weinberger repeats the commitment that the U.S. Administration will demand that congress allocate an annual $1.8 billion in military aid for fiscal 1988 and 1989; that the administration will increase the sum to be converted into shekels for purchases in Israel from $300 million to $400 million; that for the next 2 years the administration will continue the direct offset procurement program worth $150 million annually—this arrangement was originally going to end this October and will supply us with 75 F-16's within 36 months after the signing of the agreement.

These were the main commitments they undertook, and it will of course be possible to cover the costs involved in closing the project from the U.S. aid money spent in Israel and in the United States. We have other demands as well, such as for the United States to open overseas markets to us. One should remember, however, that the name of the game in the United States is orders.

[Shehori] What is happening with the Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI]? Where are the IDF alternatives?

[Rabin] The government decided that of the $209 million allocated for the Lavi this year, and of the approximately $250 million that was budgeted for next year, $100 million will go for the IDF alternatives that can be carried out in the IAI: the development of aircraft technology, for example. It is impossible to undertake all the IDF alternatives as long as the equivalent of $100-$150 million is not recovered because of salary payments to those currently employed on the Lavi. Therefore, it will take a while longer, about 6 months, before we can really carry out the IDF alternatives beyond what can be accomplished with the $100 million IAI budget.

[Shehori] Do you see harm in Moshe Arens' trip to the United States to raise funds for the continuation of the Lavi, while ignoring the Cabinet decision?

[Rabin] No. Damage is possibly being caused by planting illusions in the IAI. It should be known that in the United States no company invests in the development of an aircraft unless it has an order from the U.S. Air Force, Navy, or Army. There was one company, Northrop, that did this. It developed an F-20 at its own initiative, invested $900 million, and then stopped, losing all the money.

No other company is going to invest in developing an aircraft if there is no order and no budget from the Pentagon. So, let Arens go and sell this to them. Does his effort stand a chance? We tried it for 3 years, but no U.S. company was prepared to participate in 20 percent of the Lavi before knowing it has a customer to sell the plane to. Financing? After all, somebody will have to return the money.

[Shehori] You mentioned earlier the Iran-Iraq war which preoccupies the world so much. What is our attitude toward this war? What are its possible implications for us?

[Rabin] The very existence of this war, incidentally, proves that there can be wars in the Middle East that are not related to the Israeli-Arab conflict and whose impact on the world is greater than an Israeli-Arab war. The problem of the stoppage of oil from the Middle East was once related to the Israeli-Arab conflict. Now, however, it turns out that there is no war that causes or has the potential to cause worldwide oil or energy problems such as a Muslim war, to which Israel is totally unrelated and which is not at all influenced by the Israeli-Arab conflict.

On the other hand, we cannot overlook three results of this war. But let me first mention that the instigator of this war was Iraq, whose leaders foolishly believed they were embarking on a military adventure. We are only too familiar with this in the Middle East.

[Shehori] What has the war led to in the meantime?

[Rabin] The first point is negative. In my opinion the war has rallied the Iranian people around the Khomeyni regime. There is nothing that helped the Khomeyni regime take firm root in Iran so much as the offensive by an external element. The other two points are positive from Israel's point of view. First, the anti-Iran Iraqi war enabled Egypt, which had been totally isolated in the Arab world, to build bridges back to the Arab world without giving up its commitments vis-a-vis Israel according to the Camp David accords and the peace treaty.

In 1979 and 1980 I was worried about how well the regime in Egypt would survive in the wake of the Arab boycott and Egypt's condemnation by the Arab world due to the peace. I have no doubt that the Iraq-Iran war, which made Iraq dependent on the financial support of the oil countries, on Jordan's territory for Iraq's links with the outside world, and at a certain stage, even on Egypt for the supply of Soviet arms, has contributed to significantly lowering Egypt's walls of isolation. Egypt has built bridges to the Arab world.

The second point that is positive for Israel concerns security. Today and as long as the war and tension with Iran lasts, Iraq is no candidate to take part in a war against us. This does not eliminate the dangers of war between us and the Arab world, but it does diminish them. This has allowed us to cut the defense budget for 3 years now without immediate security risks, and has improved the national economy.

[Shehori] Still, Iraq today has a better trained army than in the past.

[Rabin] There is no doubt that Iraq has acquired experience and enhanced its army. Nevertheless, if peace is achieved, the size of the army will not remain large, in my opinion, since the oil countries will not continue to funnel money the moment the war stops. Iraq will have to dismiss half of its army personnel to rehabilitate its economy.

If tension remains, a larger army with accumulated experience will be in place. However, I cannot see Iraq ending its 7-year long war with Iran, and if this does happen in the coming months I cannot see Iraq enthusiastic about engaging in a new war. They have had enough of this war. They have also learned what it means to wage a distant war. They have failed in the offensive and are somehow managing to salvage the defense thanks to the Iraqi soldier's feeling that he is defending his home.

[Shehori] There is a view, represented by Minister Moshe Shahal, that now is the opportunity to try to draw near to Iraq since it needs the aid of the Arab countries amenable to U.S. influence: Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and others.

[Rabin] I cannot imagine that Iraq would today risk expressing a position that could be construed in the Arab world as pro-Israeli, not when it is still engaged in a hard war with Iran. In doing so it would have to risk ties with Arab countries that are not inclined in that direction.

I am likewise convinced that Husayn's freedom to maneuver politically is much greater today than it was before this war broke out, and greater than it will be after the war truly ends. Therefore, I distinguish between Iraq's willingness to have contacts with Israel. I do not see these contacts as practical since Iraq would be risking the maximum Arab support it so badly needs in its war against Iran. And my assessment today is that due to Iraq's need for Jordan and Saudi Arabia, and contrary to the past, Iraq will be less of an obstacle to others, such as Jordan and Egypt, as far as improving relations with Israel is concerned.

[Shehori] What is the nature of our relations with UNIFIL today? A modus vivendi seems to exist.

[Rabin] Our position toward UNIFIL amounts to three points. First, Israel does not ask any country to send its soldiers to UNIFIL for Israel's defense needs. We have a political and moral principle not to ask any mother in any country to risk her son's life for Israel.

[Shehori] They do not like this argument in Scandinavia. They say they are not in Lebanon at Israel's request to begin with.

[Rabin] They do not like this, do they? The reason is clear to me. They want to say that they are here to establish peace. Well, I do not want this. Do not risk your sons' lives for us. Second, we are not asking for UNIFIL's evacuation. If you do want to send your soldiers to UNIFIL, do, but for your own reasons, not for Israel's. Third, we will not agree to a change in UNIFIL's deployment. They will continue to be present where they have been since 1978.

[Shehori] It seems they do not have friction with the IDF today, but claim that the South Lebanese Army [SLA] is acting under the IDF's inspiration.

[Rabin] We believe that since they maintain contacts with other elements in the area, such as Amal, and not only with the Lebanese Army, they should also maintain contacts with this militia named SLA.

Al-'Amlah on Palestinians, Likud-PLO Contacts

TA091111 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 9 Oct 87 p 6

[Interview with Jamil al-'Amlah, head of the Village Leagues, by Pinhas 'Inbari; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Inbari] These very days there are reports on contacts between the Likud and the PLO. The question is: If they are going to the PLO, what do they need Jamil al-'Amlah for?

[Al-'Amlah] What is important to us is that the dialogue between the Palestinians and the Israelis begin. If the Israelis believe it is right to contact the PLO, we will not oppose this. What is important to us is solving the problem? It makes no difference with whom you are talking. Why are we talking with Israel? Because Israel says it will not talk with the PLO. We therefore say: if not with the PLO, then here we are. Come talk with us! If the PLO is willing to put an end to terror and violence and to recognize Israel, so much the better. We are with the PLO! We are willing to work together with the PLO in order to solve our problem.

We are more familiar with the Israeli mentality than people from the outside. There is only one goal. If the PLO has now reached the conclusion and the decision that the path of negotiations is the right path, this is what we always wanted. We want the PLO to end terror and violence and open negotiations. If the PLO has reached this starting point, there is no difference between us and the PLO and we support this.

['Inbari] According to the reports on contacts between the PLO and the Likud, the PLO has expressed a willingness to recognize Israel and put an end to hostile activities...

[Al-'Amlah, interrupting] We have been hoping that this would happen for a long time. We have always supported this line because we knew that these would be the results, that a solution can be achieved only through negotiations and a dialogue. The path of war, violence, and terrorism will not bring a solution; the problem will only worsen. Therefore, if the PLO has adopted this path it is no longer the PLO, but rather part of the moderate Palestinian people who are demanding their rights. We hope that this is the case, and if the PLO indeed will end the violence and start negotiations we will offer it our hand.

As for the Likud, if it wants to meet with any other person whom we regard as a Palestinian personage standing for the rights of the Palestinian people, then we support this, because we are entitled to our rights. Our activity is motivated by the Israeli claim that all the Palestinians are extemist. We want to prove that the opposite is true. The percentage of moderates among the Palestinians is high, and the PLO itself knows that the way to solve the Palestinian problem is through negotiations.

['Inbari] You have been heading the Hebron Village League for the past 5 years. What experience have you gained?

[Al-'Amlah] I have learned many lessons, the most important being that the Palestinians living under Israeli occupation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip must work together in order to solve their problem. From the beginning I was against arming the Village Leagues, this being one of the arguments against them. But one ought to remember that the reason for arming ourselves was the murder of Yusuf al-Khatib, one of the Village Leagues leaders. We must recall regretfully that physical and verbal terrorism were used against the Leagues, and that is why they were armed. Today I claim that we must be rid of the weapons and must reach an understanding among ourselves.

There must be consultations between the various parts of the Palestinian people on how to work together, to learn from the mistakes of the past, to unite and move toward a new dawn when we will no longer be divided but rather will form one body. I am willing to sit with any Palestinian who is willing to sit with me, such as Hanna Sinyurah, Fayiz Abu Rahmah, Mustafa al-Natshah, 'Isam al-'Anani, 'Uthman Halaq [the first three are PLO supporters and the last two are pro-Jordanian], and others. We all must agree that all factions cooperate.

['Inbari] Don't you think that all the people you have just mentioned will refuse to sit with you because they say that the Village Leagues are loyal to Israel?

[Al-'Amlah] This is our tragedy. There are people who are willing to sitndown with the Jews themselves but not with Palestinians, because they claim they are Jewish loyalists. The truth is that we are Palestinian loyalists who realize that the Jews exist and that Israel is a fact,

and we are saying that instead of a PLO man going to Romania or Hungary in order to meet with Knesset Member [MK] Biton, we are willing to meet with the prime minister and the Alignment and Likud MK's who have the ability to decide and to implement the decisions. We have the same goals as our brothers living 'outside'—we want to fulfill the yearnings of the Palestinian people. Those who speak in this manner now did not do so in the past. Then they spoke in the name of extremism.

Today they are following the line we supported from the beginning. We support peace and believe in Israeli-Palestinian coexistence in this land, which belongs both to the Palestinians and the Israelis, to both people. They must live in peace in the holy land, and each people will enjoy its rights. The Israelis are convinced that the Palestinians are extremist, and it is our duty to prove to them that this is not true. Our brothers are speaking against us and inciting against us, but the day will come when they will admit deep down that our way is right.

We are demanding an unarmed Palestinian state. We want a Palestinian identity, a Palestinian passport, a Palestinian government, honor to the Palestinians, good relations with Jordan and Israel. We want Husayn to be king on both banks, the east and the west, because he is accepted in the world and he is the only one who can help us solve our problem correctly. All the people I named above argue with me over the newspapers, but deep down they agree with me. We have not made any concessions to Israel. On the contrary, we have made many achievements. We have proven that we have legitimate rights.

['Inbari] You asked the Civilian Administration for permission to establish a communications network—television and radio. What line will this network follow?

[Al-'Amlah] It will call for peace and for a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation, and it will prove that the Palestinian silent majority seeks peace. This was proved in the farewell party for Brigadier General Sene—the notables from the territories attended. This proves that the great majority wants peace and is moderate. I wish that the percentage of moderates among the Israelis was as high as it is among the Palestinians. We support peace and we will convince the Arabs across the border that our way is right. We want to promote the idea of a Palestinian-Jordanian confederation. This will be the line the radio and television will follow. The PLO organizations came to support a confederation after a majority of the people expressed support for it, and this is the line we have always supported.

['Inbari] You have spoken warmly about the king, but from what is known your relations with Jordan are not the best, to put it mildly.

[Al-'Amlah] In 1982 Jordan made a decision against the Village Leagues at the request of Yasir 'Arafat and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd. The Saudi king told Husayn that if the Village Leagues gained momentum they might overwhelm the PLO and bring its role in the territories to an end. Now Jordan's policy has changed. Jordan is looking for people in the territories who will support it, and we support Jordan. In the past Jordan attacked the Village Leagues, but it is not doing this any more because it will not attack its own supporters. We will remain Jordan's supporters because we are convinced King Husayn has a large role to play in solving the Palestinian problem.

The day will come when Jordan realizes that the great majority of its supporters come from rural areas. We are interested in advancing our cause, and we are ignoring the present Jordanian attitude toward us, convinced that in the end Jordan will see we are correct and that our demand is identical to theirs: a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation with Husayn king over the two banks. We demand that the problem be solved through reason and negotiations. Basically, there are no differences between us and Jordan. The decision Jordan made against the Village Leagues was discriminatory; Jordan should examine the issue, and then it will see that it did an injustice to the rural sector and to the Village Leagues.

['Inbari] You are slated to meet Prime Minister Shamir, who is also leader of the Likud. Is there no difference between your position and that of the Likud? How will Shamir view your demand that Husayn be king on both sides of the Jordan?

[Al-'Amlah] Peace is often one thing and words another. What we currently want to emphasize is that the West Bank belongs to us, the Palestinians, and the East Bank to King Husayn. Yitzhaq Shamir knows that there is a Palestinian problem and that it has to be solved somehow. We want to prove to Shamir and any other party that we are against violence and in favor of peace, that we want honorable relations with Israeli. Peace is not something that has to be imported from abroad; it is right here among us. We will prove to Shamir that Palestinian moderation exists—and this moderation demands to receive what it is entitled to. We will speak from our hearts and Shamir will speak from his.

There are other parties as well, such as the Labor Party. Israel is a democracy and in the end it will make the right decision. In the end Shamir will not reject our opinions, because things have changed. Even though there are those who believe in a Greater Israel, we will proceed along the path of peace. We want an unarmed state. Israel and Jordan will be armed because Jordan must protect its border with Syria and Israel also has to protect its borders. I believe this solution will satisfy everyone—Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinian side. Only 5 percent of the Palestinians are extremists; all the others demand what we are demanding. This ratio was reversed in 1948.

['Inbari] When you met with the Likud Knesset members about a month ago, you raised the idea of a federation between Israel, not Jordan, and the territories. What made you change your mind?

[Al-'Amlah] First of all, I wanted to prove to the MK's with whom I met that we oppose violence and terrorism. Israel says the Palestinians should give up terrorism, and it was on this basis that I talked with them. These meetings were not aimed at making decisions but at proving it is possible to maintain a dialogue. We met with the Alignment and with Uri Avneri before meeting with the Likud. We just wanted to prove that there are people who want to end the dispute. We established a joint committee with the Likud to prepare plans on how to search for paths to peace.

It is not my intention, however, to meet only with the Likud; I would also prefer people from the Labor Party to join that committee; it would be an Israeli-Palestinian committee. Not only the Village Leagues would participate in this committee, but anyone who believes in a confederation and has no connection with the Village Leagues should join the confederation party. It was also for this goal that I traveled to the United States and explained this viewpoint to the media, congressmen, and the Senate. I spoke to them of the peace-loving, moderate Palestinian who wants to live side by side with Israel in peace and equality.

['Inbari] You have not explained what confederation you meant; with Jordan or Israel?

[Al-'Amlah] Both here and in the Knesset I spoke about a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. Some people say, however, that a confederation can be founded with both Jordan and Israel. I say that King Husayn will decide on establishing a confederation with Israel. This is the solution I am putting forward to the Likud, the Alignment, and Israeli public opinion as a whole. [passage omitted]

['Inbari] You consider yourself to be a supporter of King Husayn...

[Al-'amlah, interrupting] Undoubtedly. We have been, are, and will be the king's supporters, because the key to the solution lies in his hands. The PLO made a big mistake by not going along with King Husayn and recognizing UN Security Council Resolution 242. The PLO tried to rebel against King Husayn and did not recognize this resolution. Husayn severed relations with 'Arafat and his band only after he could no longer put up with the PLO's games. We support the king anywhere and at any time.

['Inbari] I wanted to ask if there is really a consolidated group of the king's supporters now, or is there a big split and several groups, with Jamil's group not necessarily being the most important?

[Al-'Amlah] King Husayn has several camps. The king has never relied on one specific camp. There are several camps, and we will see which lasts longest. I am going to prove my strength; 'Isam al-'Anani and 'Uthman Halaq (editors of the *Al-Nahar* daily) have tried to prove their strength, others...

['Inbari, interrupting] And 'Abd al-Fatah Dudin (head of the Dura local council in the Hebron Hills, who organized separately)?

[Al-'Amlah] I think 'Abd al-Fatah Dudin is going with me...(muses) perhaps he will also prove his strength. One day all these forces will unite and become one enormous central power. We will all support the king.

AL-ITTIHAD Says Husayn to Visit USSR

JN141510 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 13 Oct 87 p 1

[Text] *Al-Ittihad* has learned that Jordan's King Husayn will pay an official visit to the USSR before the end of this year. During the visit he will hold talks with Soviet leaders on efforts under way to convene an international conference and on bilateral relations, particularly in the military field.

Reliable sources in Moscow affirmed to *Al-Ittihad* yesterday that King Husayn's talks will focus on providing Jordan with sophisticated Soviet weapons, including MIG-29 aircraft and sophisticated radar networks for the Jordanian Air Froce.

The sources said that this was the main topic discussed by a Soviet military delegation during its official visit to Jordan this month and that it was agreed to postpone the discussion of the financial and technical aspects of the Jordanian request until King Husayn visits Moscow.

Dudin Returns After Conveying Summit Invitation

JN141908 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Oct 87

[Text] Amman—Marwan Dudin, His Majesty King Husayn's envoy and occupied territories affairs minister, returned to Amman from Beirut this evening after conveying a message from His Majesty King Husayn to His Excellency President Amin al-Jumayyil, president of the Lebanese Republic, that contained an invitation to his excellency the president to attend the extraordinary Arab summit to be held in Amman on 8 November.

Dudin conveyed the greetings of His Majesty King Husayn to His Excellency President al-Jumayyil, who asked him to convey similar greetings to His Majesty King Husayn, expressing his readiness to do everything to help make the summit a success.

An official spokesman for the Lebanese presidency said yesterday evening that Lebanon will send a high-level delegation to the summit, led by His Excellency President Amin al-Jumayyil.

AL-RA'Y Views Shultz Tour, U.S. Credibility

JN150813 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 15 Oct 87 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "The Option of Struggle and Others' Credibility"]

[Text] The popular uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip entered its 5th day yesterday. The purpose of the uprising is to defend the Al-Aqsa Mosque's sanctity, to glorify the Palestinian fighters who were martyred in a courageous clash with the occupation troops in Gaza, and to express the confrontation of Israeli terrorism. This terrorism escalates day after day and has recently killed a Palestinian woman in Ramallah who was a mother of five.

It is strange that the occupation authorities insist on linking this uprising with the tour of the region which U.S. Secretary of State Shultz will make today. Israeli Defense Minister Rabin has stated that there are foreign hands behind the uprising and that it occurred to create a certain atmosphere during Shultz' expected visit.

Comments by the U.S. State Department's spokesman on events in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have drawn attention. He described them as a matter which calls for intensified efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Middle East conflict. He also said that during his tour the U.S. secretary of state will discuss the situation in the region and the efforts being exerted to find such a peaceful solution.

In light of these developments, three basic facts are evident. They are:

1. The Palestinian people have not made any of their repeated uprisings against the Israeli aggressors due to outside inspiration nor have they made them on the occasion of a visit to the region by a U.S. or non-U.S. official. Moreover, all the uprisings which happened or which may happen in the future emanate from the impossibility of coexistence between the aggressors and the repressed.

2. Usually, U.S. officials do not pay attention to the need to find a peaceful solution to the Palestine question unless the occupied territory flames with resistance. These officials forget such a need quickly whenever relative calm prevails there. This confirms that the option of resistance is indispensable to keep the Palestine question an international priority.

3. Shultz' visit to the region still lacks signs that it will manage to restore U.S. credibility. It is no secret that Washington's negative stand on the proposed international conference conflicts with the U.S. call for finding a peaceful solution to the Palestine question.

No one can speculate about the contents of Shultz' quiver. However, if this quiver contains no clear change in U.S. Government policy, then the results of Shultz' tour of the region will be no better than the results of the tours made by previous envoys.

At any rate, we say that the option of struggle to regain the usurped rights continues to be a basic option that cannot be removed so that the Palestine question will be settled in a just and comprehensive way regardless of others' credibility.

Al-Huss Cancels Engagements for Health Reasons
NC151747 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has cancelled all of his engagements scheduled for today and tomorrow for health reasons. He has left his office and refrained from receiving callers and visitors.

Ja'ja' Reportedly Escapes Assassination Attempt
NC160647 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0600 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] According to highly placed security sources in East Beirut, Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' escaped an assassination attempt on Sunday, 4 October, when land mines were discovered in the church of his hometown of (?Al-Qattarah).

The same sources pointed out that the mines were discovered at the last moment. It should be recalled that Ja'ja' usually spends the weekend in his hometown. The Lebanese Forces intelligence service had taken the necessary steps to prevent any leakage to the mass media.

Al-Hashim Says U.S., France Seek New Government
NC151803 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Acting Finance Minister Joseph al-Hashim has expressed his belief that joint U.S.-Syrian and French-Syrian efforts are being exerted to form a new government which would confront the people's economic and living problems. Al-Hashim stated this when he received editors' doyen Milhim Karam today.

In connection with the increase in the price of the dollar, the acting finance minister blamed the increase in financial and economic problems. He said that the recent salary and wage increases are not the direct cause for the rise in the price of the dollar although acknowledging that they affect [words indistinct]. He pointed out that the main reason for the increase in the dollar's price is the Central Bank's success in interfering in the financial market to strike at speculators. [passage omitted]

Soviet Ambassador Views Talks with Al-Jumayyil
NC151656 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] Vasiliy Kolotusha, the Soviet ambassador to Lebanon, met with President Amin al-Jumayyil this afternoon. In a statement following the meeting, Ambassador Kolotusha said that the talks had dealt with some of the topics to be discussed at the United Nations. He described Lebanon's moves to remedy its crisis as important. He noted that the question of sending troops from Eastern bloc countries to south Lebanon had not as yet been officially raised.

Fadlallah Reiterates Calls for Islamic Republic
NC151702 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah today renewed his call for the establishment of an Islamic republic in Lebanon. He pointed out that flexibility is not necessarily the only way to achieve this objective. Fadlallah stressed that we are politicians, not missionaries, whose job is solely confined to preaching at mosques. He noted that we want to push the religious cause to the political level.

According to Fadlallah, the presidential elections [in Lebanon] will be held and no constitutional vacuum will emerge. He said that the United States will be one of the main voters, along with some other regional voters. He maintained however that there will be no Lebanese voters. Fadlallah denied any relationship with Yasir 'Arafat, challenging anyone who can prove the contrary.

Fadlallah said relations with Amal members are good. However, Minister Nabih Birri's very busy schedule precludes a meeting with me, a situation that applies to me as well, he added.

With respect to the Gulf war, Fadlallah expressed his belief that the war will last another 20 years.

Hizballah Executes Teenager Accused of Murder
NC151317 Paris AFP in English 1250 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Ba'labakk, Lebanon, Oct 15 (AFP)—The pro-Iranian Hizballah group announced Thursday that it had "executed" a Lebanese teenager whom it accused of murdering a moneychanger last month in Lebanon's Al-Biqa' Valley.

The body of 'Abd al-Amir Hamiyah, 19, was found Thursday morning in front of the hospital in Ba'labakk, 83 kilometers (51 miles) east of Beirut, with two bullets in the neck.

A paper found on the body identified him as "the murderer of moneychanger Radawan 'Utman," slain here September 10.

Members of the Hizballah (Party of God), an Islamic fundamentalist movement widely supported by Ba'labakk's Shi'ite population, told *Agence France-Presse* that the "execution" took place Wednesday, after Mr Hamiyah's guilt was "legally proven."

A week earlier, Hizballah had shown Mr Hamiyah and his alleged accomplice, 'Ali Husayn Musawi, also 19, to journalists in Ba'labakk, declaring that the latter had been sentenced to an unspecified prison term.

The Hizballah told AFP that it was working "to assure the security of citizens by punishing criminals." [passage omitted]

Rallies Protest Economic, Living Conditions
NC151649 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1530 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Excerpts] Two peaceful demonstrations were held in East and West Beirut at 1530 this afternoon to demand a quick end to the deterioration of the economic, financial, and living conditions in the country.

The first demonstration set off from the National Union headquarters in Wata al-Musaytibah and the second from the Fiat building on Corniche al-Mazra'ah. They joined up outside the Al-Mansur Palace [Parliament building]. Several leaders of the General Federation of Labor and of trade unionist, vocational, and popular organizations participated in the two demonstrations.

In the meantime, a similar demonstration set off from Al-Najmah Square in Sidon to march through the city's streets. Other protests were held in various parts of Lebanon. [passage omitted]

The Student Guardians Revolutionary Movement staged a sit-in in front of the Palace of Justice to demand free elementary school education and subsidies for secondary and university education. The movement also demanded subsidies for textbooks and transportation. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister al-Kasm Receives Iran's Mo'ayeri

JN151920 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] Damascus—Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm received 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri, Iranian assistant deputy prime minister for political affairs, at 1830 this evening.

The meeting was attended by the Iranian ambassador in Damascus. Talks during the meeting dealt with the current situation in the region and ways of promoting bilateral relations in various fields.

IRNA Notes Talks With Al-Shar'

LD152057 Tehran IRNA in English 2009 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] Damascus, Oct. 15, IRNA—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' reaffirmed his country's support for Iran's stance against imperialism and Zionism in a meeting with visiting Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri here Thursday.

Moayeri stressed at the meeting that the Islamic Republic of Iran, bound by its principles to counter the plots hatched by imperialists, Zionists and regional reactionaries, will fight against the presence of foreign forces (?in the) Persian Gulf. Presence of foreign fleets in the Persian Gulf has endangered regional security, said the Iranian official, emphasising the fleets should withdraw from the region.

Kuwait has committed the biggest treason both against the Islamic Republic and the Arab world by inviting foreign fleets to the Persian Gulf, remarked Mo'ayeri adding, the Saudi regime also played a part in heightening the present tension by massacreing hajj pilgrims in Mecca (July 31) and providing facilities to the foreign fleets.

In response, the Syrian minister stressing on his country's support to the Islamic Republic against imperialism and Zionism, said Syria has always defended Iran's righteous stands in all regional and international circles and will continue to do so. The Islamic Revolution is a worthy symbol of resistance and is highly esteemed by the world's pioneers, Al-Shar' said.

Adverting to presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf, the Syrian foreign minister said, "The concentration of military forces contradicts the claims made by their senders for defending peace and shipping security."

Syria is eagerly looking forward to Iranian Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi's visit, concluded the Syrian official.

Mo'ayeri arrived here Wednesday at the head of a delegation from the Prime Ministry and the Foreign Ministry.

Arab League's Klibi Leaves Damascus for Libya

JN151144 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi left Damascus this morning for the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' led those who saw him off. He was also seen off by Zuhayr 'Aqil, commissioner general of the Israel Boycott Offices; Hasib Ustuwani, director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; and the Libyan charge d'affaires in Damascus.

AL-BA'TH Claims U.S.-Iraqi Collusion in Gulf

PM140931 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 28 Sep 87 p 1

[Editorial: "The Recent Escalation in the Gulf"]

[Text] Amidst the latest U.S. escalation in the Gulf and the deluge of continuous threats which have emanated from Washington against the Iranian revolution, the Iraqi regime has begun taking similar steps at either the military level or the level of senseless threats corresponding to the U.S. position, consequently revealing a continued coordination between the two sides, which is no longer a secret in Saddam's unjust war.

The U.S. aggression against the Iranian supply ship in the Gulf came at a time of successive international efforts to extinguish the flame of the war and completely end it. If the sudden U.S. escalation has coincided with Richard Murphy's talks with the Iraqi regime's foreign minister, Tariq 'Aziz, it is clear that this regime has received a clear signal from the U.S. Administration to embark on a new escalation that would block all the attempts made for a settlement and to establish peace.

It has in fact begun to escalate its oppressive war in harmony with the U.S. position and against the international consensus in favor of ending the state of tension, which threatens not only the security and peace of the region but also international security and peace.

Perhaps what is indeed astonishing are the repeated claims which emanate sometimes from Washington and other times from the Iraqi regime over the need "to establish peace," whereas reality has confirmed the falseness of these claims and refuted them. Those who call for peace are most certainly pursuing its antithesis, namely war and aggression, which fully applies to the U.S. position which is in harmony with Iraq's positions, especially since the common factor between them is to render services for Israel which is considered to be the main and perhaps the sole beneficiary of this war and its continuation.

We have no wish to anticipate events nor do we wish to be drawn into talking about possibilities in the near future. However, we see in the latest escalation started by Washington, which the Iraqi regime has taken upon itself the job of completing, a great danger with unforseen

the democratic process under the dome of the Assembly to reach its pinnacle through the majority and the opposition. This demands the solidification of rational parliamentary traditions which can achieve effective positive cooperation between supporting and opposing views so that these traditions can become a model for future generations in respecting freedom of opinion, appreciating supreme national interests, and contributing to the consolidation of stability.

I urge the People's Assembly to make a comprehensive review of existing legislation, in cooperation with the government, so it can become a homogeneous unit, without contradictions or duplicity, responsive to the provisions and spirit of the Constitution, without ambiguity, and responsive to all developments and changes in economic and social areas.

The judicial authority: The judiciary in Egypt has been a source of pride throughout history. It is the authority responsible for the sound application of laws and the establishment of justice. The judicial bench should always remain held high by continuous enhancement of the judge's independence, safeguarding the judiciary against all suspicion, interference, pressure, or temptation from any source, and guaranteeing the implementation of final sentences. [applause]

The complete separation of judicial, executive, and legislative authorities can be achieved by the benches' remaining within the parameters of their authority. The judiciary is the best example of obedience to the text and sovereignty of the law and blind justice, before which large and small are equal. This requires developing court procedures which ensure the establishment of justice.

Brothers and sisters, members of the People's Assembly, democratic rule in this clear framework is our tool for protecting stability and prosperity. Stability safeguards every achievement made by the people through continuous sacrifice, constant work, and solid determination. Therefore, maintaining and safeguarding this stability against the dangers of terrorism and plots becomes the national duty of every Egyptian concerned for his country, his society, and his interests. [applause]

A citizen of a democratic state who is protected by the law devotes himself to protecting it from the enemies of law and democracy. In long-standing democracies there is no difference in this regard between one political party and another, a government supporter or member of the opposition, or ruler and ruled.

In the past few years, some friendly European countries have encountered very violent terrorist incidents which threatened the lives and safety of citizens in the streets and public places. These incidents continued for 2 consecutive months, leaving victims among police and defenseless citizens. What happened then? The people in these countries and all their political parties, institutions, and sects stood as one man and denounced these crimes.

They all rallied to resist and thwart those crimes. Not one voice among the opposition parties failed to perform this national responsibility. The entire people closed ranks with the security forces, supporting them, hailing their efforts, and honoring their martyrs, because their security was above every other consideration.

Perhaps you have noticed that recently there have been reckless campaigns in the press, slandering the Egyptian security forces, spreading lies about them, and attempting to undermine their efforts, work, and performance in shouldering their grave and great responsibilities. These campaigns occurred at a time when these forces were confronting hideous terrorist crimes, sacrificing their lives for the homeland's and citizens' security, and bearing more than human beings can. [applause]

Indeed, everywhere there were honorable citizens who provided the most splendid aid to the security forces in their national duty. There were also responsible nationalist writers who confronted others' nihilistic behavior, which was full of the poison of malice. However, in total frankness, I never imagined that some people would abandon their national responsibility with regard to the grave events threatening the lives of all and aimed at undermining stability, prosperity, and democracy.

From this rostrum I salute the Egyptian security forces, [applause] their commanders, all their personnel, soldiers and officers. I tell them, expressing an actual fact: You are appreciated and respected by the people, whatever your rank, because you are performing venerable tasks for millions of others. You are doing this to the best of your ability, with a sincerity that cannot be doubted or undermined.

A policeman does not enjoy special immunity from accountability if he neglects his task or abuses his authority. He is the first to whom the law is applied. There are approved regulations for such matters. Still, a member of the security forces, who represents society's authority, has prestige and is respected and appreciated while performing his duty in serving the people, in the name of the people and the law. All honorable citizens must rest assured that the state is confronting with total firmness all attempts to terrorize the people, undermine their security, or threaten their liberty and lives, because the people's security is our noblest duty. Furthermore, the prestige of the state is a necessary factor in preserving the homeland. [applause]

Dear brothers and sisters: In talking about building democracy, some say that certain provisions of the Constitution should be reconsidered and some laws amended. With my usual complete honesty and candor, I tell you that if this matter were a top priority on the list

of national action or if it could contribute to addressing the citizens' basic problems, I would not have hesitated for a single moment to open wide the door to debating these matters. [applause] We have no intention or interest in maintaining certain conditions, believe me, if they do not benefit the homeland's higher interests or if the great majority of the sons of the people believe that changing these conditions is so important that it deserves precedence over other aspects of national action.

There remains a matter which I hope those working in the political field will understand: The people will not be dominated by terrorism, because they reject the delusory, sinful ideas which motivate this terrorism and because they will not abandon democracy. The people will not accept a call to retreat, because every era has its own ideas and its own men. The movement of history is always forward. [applause] The people will not accept alignment with totalitarianism or autocracy. [applause] The people naturally reject extremism. So, I believe the national conscience appeals to all to rally around their gains in democracy, social justice, and equal opportunities. [applause]

National rallying around these aims must constitute a strong, impregnable alliance that preserves freedom, fights extremism, repudiates terrorism, enhances constitutional legitimacy and the multiparty system, and looks to the future with hope, knowledge, and work. This is our national call as we promote the struggle of legitimate opinion in building our renaissance.

The economic and social structure: The democratic structure is our support in economic and social building. The human being is not a mere machine but has a heart, a mind, and a will. A human being participates in the establishment of a just society which meets his needs. As you all know, the economic picture for the past 6 years has been unimaginably, extremely bleak. Therefore, it was necessary for any remedial efforts to begin with an accurate definition of the real situation with which we were dealing, an examination of the structure which we commit ourselves to develop, and a calculation of the resources available for utilization.

However, we found ourselves in a critical situation, in which it was difficult for us to move due to deficent resources and mounting burdens. The following are the principal features of this situation:

An alarming population explosion, in which the population increased by 7,030,438 from 1981 to 1986. This required providing additional, secondary job opportunities and basic consumer commodities as well as more educational and medical treatment services and housing units.

We were also faced with the problem of new graduates and persons reaching working age every year who desired incomes meeting their basic living needs. We were faced with an erosion of agricultural land, which is a source of food, and degeneration in the quality of the soil. This was accompanied by increased individual consumption of basic commodities that exceeded historical or world records.

The basic components for industrialization and land reclamation were also inadequate, whether for the production of energy or the provision of drinking water, sewer systems, or internal and external communications networks. You were all aware of this. Then there were crowded ports and deficient means of land, maritime, and air transport. As for the bases of general industrial production, these were exhausted and had not been renewed for a very long time.

In addition, there was a lack of building and construction resources. There was too little land for building. There were delays in the implementation of projects due to a lack of resources and the hesitation of investors—even Egyptian investors—because of the difficult economic conditions. The foreign currency market was unstable. Bureaucratic complications were stifling and land required for the establishment of projects was scarce.

However, thanks to popular and official efforts and everyone's participation in construction, we have been able to achieve much. I will confine myself to mentioning only the headlines:

1. For the first time in the 20th century, the total area of agricultural land increased to 6.3 million feddans after we had resolutely carried out dredging work and [reclaimed] fallow land, which continued nonstop for 30 years. [applause] The production of some crops has increased, and the production per feddan of other basic crops has also risen. We now export new kinds of vegetables and fruits to the Arab and European markets. During the last year exports of these products has increased. I myself saw these items being exported. [applause]

We have been able to present the Egyptian consumer with new products manufactured in Egypt. These totaled 1,270 commodities during this 5-year plan—that is a rate of 1 new commodity a day. Markets that are replete with food products, textiles, clothes, household equipment, and building materials, not produced in Egypt before, testify to this.

2. We were able to increase the number of the major and minor factories which have actually begun production from 4,105 in 1981 to 10,064 in 1987. In other words, in 5 years we have doubled the number of factories set up in Egypt since industry began here during the reign of Muhammad 'Ali.

The production of basic industrial commodities increased in 5 years at a rate between 20 and 50 percent. Annual exports of the public industrial sector more than doubled. They are expected to triple within the current

year. Three hundred public sector factories, of a total of 354, have been modernized. This means that in 5 years 85 percent of the old factories have been modernized. These factories had not been upgraded since their construction, and some of them were built in 1906. In other words, they are 81 years old.

An experimental stage began in manufacturing equipment and vehicles, such as water purification plants, sewer systems, ships, railway cars, and tractors. This was done as a prelude to entering a new phase of Egyptian industrialization: the construction of complete factories by Egyptian hands.

3. We doubled the capacity of tourist hotels. In 5 years we constructed new hotels, tourist villages, and floating hotels, totaling almost half the number built since the end of the last century. This enabled us in the past 6 months to receive as many tourists as we had in the entire previous year.

We added three international airports which receive flights from all countries. We also modernized and enlarged Cairo airport. Our present airport capacity is 38 million passengers annually. This is three times the capacity we had when Egypt entered the aircraft age.

4. The annual output of petroleum derivatives increased by 12 million tons, which equals 40 percent of the quantity produced from the discovery of petroleum to 1981.

5. We succeeded in rebuilding the basic facilities needed for agricultural, industrial, and tourist industry growth, in addition to expanding services to the citizens. A summary of this follows:

a. Construction of electric power stations and networks triple the number of such facilities in 1981, and 90 times greater than those existing in 1952.

b. Complete elimination of backlogged cargo at Egyptian ports since the construction of three modern ports. It is noteworthy that only four ports had been built in Egypt until 1981, before the [economic] plan. The old ports have also been upgraded to handle quantities equalling 10 times their capacity 5 years ago.

c. New roads built for the transport of passengers and goods. Nearly 16,000 km of roads have been built, averaging 43 km per day. [applause]

d. Installation of 900,000 new telephone lines. This is 1 and 1/2 more lines than when the telephone came to Egypt. The citizen and the investor are now able to contact directly anyone, anywhere in the world from their workplace.

e. Nearing self-sufficiency in cement output, adding a capacity approximately four times greater than previously. Our annual output, which was 3.7 million tons in 1981, amounted to 13 million tons in 1987.

f. Production of reinforced steel rising to three times the amount of previous output, totalling 1 million tons. In 1981 it was 356,000 tons. We hope that when the second stage of the Al-Dukhaylah iron project is completed, we will approach total self-sufficiency.

g. Outside the [Nile] Valley, far from agricultural land, the establishment of 18 new towns. These were the first towns to be built outside the Nile Valley since the days of the pharaohs.

h. Construction of 1 million housing units, more than had been built previously in 25 years.

i. The construction of 15 new large hospitals which began functioning. These hospitals began working after construction on them had been halted for decades.

j. A base for television and radio communications—the largest and most modern in the Middle East—was built, covering all of Egypt's governorates for the first time.

k. An increase in the number of people who are insured and have the right to a pension to 12.2 million people, approximately one-quarter of the population. [applause]

l. Through commitment to providing education opportunities for everybody, an increase in the number of educated persons to 25.5 million. Thus, Egypt has the largest number of educated people in both the Arab region and Africa. [applause] this human wealth is singular in that 7 million persons have acquired technical skills which can be further advanced to absorb technological developments needed for the coming stage.

This, brothers and sisters, is a quick review of some of our achievements. This leads us to the big question: Where are we heading? Which goals do we want to make a reality, raising the standard of the citizens' daily lives, benefitting them, and leading to the rennaissance? Are there real bases for hope? Yes, these bases are represented in stability, confidence, and permanency:

1. Individuals' and establishments' deposits in local and foreign currency amounted to billions of pounds last year, when they increased by an average unmatched in Egypt. Deposits in local currency increased by 2.275 billion pounds last year, representing an average annual growth of 18.8 percent. Deposits in foreign currency increased during the same period by an average of 11.9 percent.

These are indications of great confidence among citizens at home and abroad and of their readiness to deposit their money and savings in a stable and safe country. This is strengthened by Egyptian capital's contribution

to new projects, implemented since 1973, amounting to 65 percent of the total capital invested. The Egyptians' contribution to joint projects in the past 5 years amounted to 4.86 billion pounds.

2. We still have approximately 2.8 million unused feddans of arable land. This equals approximately half the total area of land now being cultivated. We also possess the water necessary to reclaim these arable lands.

3. We possess water surfaces suitable for developing fisheries once they are cleansed of sources of pollution. The area of these surfaces totals 13 million feddans, which could produce 2 million tons of fish annually.

4. We have the largest industrial base in the Middle East. We also have technological bases, including the most up-to-date industrialization equipment in the world. Total investments in this sector that could be used to manufacture machinery and equipment are worth approximately 20 billion pounds. We also possess basic resources and metals sufficient to meet the needs of many existing factories and new industries.

Added to all this are the natural gas fields that have been discovered. Plans are being prepared to use them to establish basic industries such as fertilizers and advanced chemicals, and to operate new power plants and achieve self-sufficiency in butane. I believe we have already achieved self-sufficiency in butane production.

We return to the big question: Where are we going on this road of renaissance building?

On these national bases, and through doubled efforts in the coming stages, we wish to realize the following specific objectives:

Increased production: We want national production increased by a percentage higher than anticipated increases in consumption. We can thus achieve two things: making goods available to the market to avoid scarcity and constant rises in prices due to short supply and high demand, and limiting our dependence on foreign sources, thus avoiding huge imports that place a burden on our foreign currency revenues and force us to borrow from foreign states. The outside world cannot forever provide us with the goods we need.

This great objective—production surpassing consumption—is not an easy task; it calls for great hopes that require an organized effort and coordinated planning of various production locations, particularly when we consider the expected population increase over the next 5 years as well as the expected increase in the per capita consumption rate of essential goods. What is our plan to achieve this?

If we look at our objectives in the agriculture sector, we will find that we have to achieve self-sufficiency in all crops except wheat and maize. We will also have to limit our dependence on foreign sources for wheat and maize by at least 25 percent. We will have to increase agricultural exports to cover the cost of wheat and maize imports.

Studies by specialized entities show that this can be achieved through a program to be announced by the government. Major steps in this program should include the reclamation of at least 15,000 feddans annually; achieving self-sufficiency in poultry, fish, and eggs; reducing waste by at least 50 percent; and determining the system to be employed in marketing nontraditional agricultural products such as fruits and vegetables.

In the industrial sector, we seek a rudimental shift to an industrial society according to an announced plan that includes the following: meeting the public's need for essential manufactured food products; complete industrialization of production lines not requiring complex or precision equipment; constantly improving the quality of domestic products and allowing the masses to monitor this improvement at special annual fairs displaying modernized and improved Egyptian products of various industries, without exception; establishing integrated industrial areas at a considerable distance from agricultural districts and dedicating the major portion of these areas to small industries that can be perfected by each governorate; and starting immediate surveying of Egyptian villages' potential for the rural industrialization program, especially after certain villages' proven success in this endeavor.

Turning to the private sector, we find it is no exaggeration to term as nonsense any talk about distinctions between the public and private sectors. I assume it is now accepted as a given that the wealth of both sectors belongs to the people. [applause]

In this field we need to reinforce the ability of both the public and private industrial sectors to increase production and improve product quality through introducing sophisticated technology, thus allowing them to compete in foreign markets.

I need not repeat that the state is eager to foster all productive activities in Egypt and without discriminating between the public and private sectors. Every project built on Egyptian soil for the benefit of Egypt's workers, technicians, and consumers receives the same amount of government and public protection and the same guarantees. This makes it possible for these projects to take shape, produce, and provide new opportunities for labor and expertise, both of which can contribute to this homeland's construction and the improvement of its ability to compete efficiently and effectively.

The government will submit to your esteemed Assembly the legal arrangements agreed upon to facilitate reclaiming new land by an average of 150,000 feddans annually and the expansion of industrial zones. It will also submit

a national program for the Egyptian countryside's industrialization to you. Opening new job opportunities for youths will be taken into consideration in all of this. The state will encourage expansion in establishing small projects in the basic production sectors. It will also act to stimulate the role of companies contributing to investment in order to protect the rights of investors and guarantee that their funds' utilization is supervised.

In moving to other fields of national action and goals during the rennaissance stage, I would sum them up as follows:

Housing: The number of units in this sector is horrendous. However, we will never stop confronting problems and finding solutions. I see no need to describe the problem; a painful phenomenon disturbing us all is the fact that a noticeable number of citizens reside in places lacking standard housing conditions.

The plan of attack for the coming stage is a comprehensive and ambitious one, one that will give a strong push to reinforcing what has already been achieved, which in itself is a great deal and cannot be denigrated. This plan is based on providing land and utilities at cost to those who apply to build. Housing experts estimate we will need 470 [square] million meters of such land until the year 2000.

The state will continue to provide easy-term construction loans provided to those with low incomes. Furthermore, the state will encourage the establishment of special funds to finance the construction of new housing areas for youths. The phenomenon of imaginary ownership and exploiting those with small saving accounts will be firmly resisted through the application of advanced, flexible regulations. [applause]

Education: Rennaissance is based on knowledge and action. Restricted and confused teaching does not produce sound and upright individuals or open minds capable of dealing with every situation. Instead, it is an obstacle hindering an individual's progress as well as that of his society.

The Egyptian family complains about restrictions in education and the weakness of schools teaching their sons. They also complain of a lack of suitable teachers in various fields. Developing education is a primary target for the coming stage so that schools and universities can fulfill their basic role and ease the family's burden decisively. The school's mission would thus become to develop talent for thinking and innovating and to polish individual skills and the ability to produce and gain.

The approach I demand we pursue in developing education in the coming stage seeks the creation of a generation of producers who are able to work at production centers, not in offices. This approach also seeks to ease the material and moral burdens the Egyptian family assumes in educating its children. Moreover, the educational system must guarantee the discovery of gifted persons, their sponsorship, and the development of their talents so that a generation of learned men can be created in Egypt.

An integrated plan, annexed to the state's 5-year plan, to reform Egypt's educational system in Egypt will be referred to your respectable Assembly. This plan covers the development of educational courses according to the most modern systems, the additional training of teachers, changes to the study and examination system, and the construction of enough schools to apply the system of full schooldays.

In this regard, it must be established that the principle of free education will not be altered. [applause] When we assert this principle, we take into consideration that the kind of education available to Egyptians, regardless of their financial capabilities, is a pillar of construction and development in a country where millions possess only a limited income. If those who possess the resources wish to contribute to covering the costs of educational development—and I think they do—we welcome and encourage this contribution with all our appreciation. [applause] Are there no donors? [laughter and applause] Then how can we build schools? Those who have money must pay.

Tourism: Egypt is proud that it possesses one-sixth of the world's archaeological relics. It also possesses distinctive sandy beaches extending 2,500 km. With its location and geology, Egypt is qualified to attract an increasing share of world tourism, particularly since the majority of basic facilities required for tourism have been completed over the past 5 years. I can say that the tourist facilities constructed last year represent a real beginning of a major tourism rennaissance in Egypt, one that must be realized and supported in all areas necessary to make it a success. Our planning is directed toward doubling tourism revenue in the coming stage during the 5-year period.

The necessary infrastructure is being established with Egyptian financing on Sinai and Red Sea beaches and remaining areas of the northwest coast. Planning and development can be accomplished through Arab and international investment. These areas can thus become tourist attractions and this will be accompanied by a program to develop and update industries contributing to tourism. Tourism can thus occupy the first place among various sources of foreign currency.

Health: We all sense an urgent need for promoting medical treatment in Egypt. We must admit that free treatment has fallen below the level required and that paid treatment exceeds the ability of most Egyptians to pay. This situation cannot change without a decisive confrontation, one for which we have many weapons. We now have public and private hospitals all over the country. We have treatment centers equipped with the

most modern medical appliances. We have thousands of young doctors eager to play a growing role in providing treatment and care for the public, at a considerable cost.

We have to embark on an integrated program for health insurance, one which employs all these energies and all medical institutions, both public and private. The next stage must witness huge efforts to provide health services to schoolchildren. These services do not now meet the needs of this large sector of our sons.

Brother and sister members of the People's Assembly, it is the people's right and your right to ask how the money required for all these heavy developmental burdens will be found when we are already overburdened with foreign debts. First of all, as I told you, it was our decision early this year not to permit imports unless they are for productive projects. We also decided to make it incumbent upon owners of projects borrowing funds to pay back debt installments and interest in the same currency borrowed. Some used to find it easier to borrow than they do now, while some said they would depend on themselves rather than borrow.

Foreign currency earned by our projects must increase annually on the basis of the ratio required to pay the annual debt installment and interest. This issue must be borne in mind when assessing performances of managers in sectors that resort to foreign borrowing. I hope it will be clear that rescheduling debts does not mean we are exempt from repaying them; it merely means delaying payment.

This situation makes it incumbent on us both to determine specific goals for various exports in the fields of agriculture, industry, tourism, and petroleum and to bring the leaders of these sectors to account on a regular and organized basis, to see whether these goals have been achieved. This requires a continuous assessment of the situation.

Brothers and sisters, the only way is for us to depend on ourselves and to limit borrowing. We must enhance our domestic efforts to increase our foreign currency revenue, which can then be devoted to investment, thus increasing the Egyptian share of new projects and encouraging the flow of national funds to productive sectors.

Considerable efforts have been made to attract the savings of Egyptian expatriates. However, there is still much to be done in this field, particularly the safeguarding of these savings and protecting them from manipulators. We must offer Egyptian expatriates viable and guaranteed investment projects. We must also develop existing saving facilities so that they can attract the largest possible number of savers.

Possible areas of action are numerous and the horizons for national finance for development are encouraging and wide. We must concentrate efforts to face the major challenge facing the Egyptian economy: limiting foreign imports. The Egypt of all Egyptians, the Egypt of the renaissance, is capable of taking on this challenge.

Wages and prices: There remains a major problem, one that I know concerns every family in Egypt, especially those with low incomes. This is the issue of wages and prices. Let no one think we are blind to the great suffering of low-income households, despite the subsidies provided by the government for essential goods. This issue, which I place at the top of all our difficulties, is my major concern, particularly since it does not allow for partial solutions, with world prices climbing at unexpectedly high rates. I do not wish to deceive anyone with hasty hopes or glowing promises. Never. The solutions must be comprehensive and parallel; they must be planned by the government and implemented by society as a whole.

Part of the solution is to continue subsidizing a group of essential goods. This is a line of action we had accepted and will never deviate from. The modern state and the capable and conscious public realize their social and national responsibility to protect low-income groups. Each of you is responsible to society.

However, the important part of the solution is represented by our ability to turn the members of our society into integrated and productive cells. As for those who do not produce, we will find a way to make them produce. For those who contribute a limited amount to production, we will help them to produce more. When I speak of our ability to transform society into productive cells, I mean that everyone in Egypt should play a role in increasing production. I believe that the state's role is clear and needs no clarification: Its role is to provide utilities and services, as well as to invest in fields that the private sector does not contribute to.

The individual's role, however, does call for clarification and frankness, and I must tell you truthfully that the capacities of the national establishments and of the sons of Egypt who are able to work and produce do not offer all they could. We possess idle capacities in the public and private sectors; they could double their production if properly exploited. The responsibility for this falls primarily on the shoulders of owners of these establishments and those working in them. They must find the best ways to exploit these capacities and only then turn to the state if they come across obstacles they cannnot surmount. The government will commit itself in the next stage to removing these obstacles and hurdles.

On the other hand, we must admit that consumer prices are much higher than e prices of farm and factory [products]. This difference is due to the failure to confront the important issue of waste in distribution channels. This waste comes about because groups of distributors control and increase prices. The decisive approach to which we must direct our efforts is to regulate distribution enterprises in a way that will have a real effect on prices.

The government will submit to you its detailed program in this regard. I reiterate that increasing production is an issue involving all of Egypt. while fully appreciating the efforts made to prepare the way toward increasing production, I also call for a national conference to discuss means of increasing production and developing marketing regulations. All national experts in the official departments, scientific establishments, political parties, and various production centers would present their views and ideas regarding this vital issue on which renaissance is based. The conference would come out with a national program defining roles in the coming stage. This is a vital matter that requires the attention of all our country's experts.

We began the first stage by convening an economic conference that outlined the method to build the economy, despite conflicting views. Today we call for a conference to increase production now that we have laid the foundations and rearranged the house from within. It is our present duty to prepare everything for our upswing.

Brothers and sisters, members of the People's Assembly, every citizen of Egypt realizes that all the construction and progress we achieve depends on strong and courageous shields to protect sovereignty and independence, safeguard land and dignity, and defend the entire homeland against any treachery or aggression. These strong and courageous shields are represented by the sons of our valiant Armed Forces. [applause] Our sons in the Armed Forces are in the forefront of the national struggle and their mission and creed is the sacrifice of body and soul. I have no doubt that I am sincerely expressing your feelings and those of all Egyptians when I greet our Armed Forces with pride and admiration for what they do every day for the sake of Egypt, and when I salute the basic role they play in this vital and most strategically important region. [applause]

Therefore, despite harsh conditions, Egypt will spare nothing to provide our Armed Forces with the most up-to-date technology that is available and to ensure that they develop and improve to the highest levels in order to perform their sacred national mission.

Brothers and sisters, when we look at current international events, we become more convinced of the soundness of the policy we have adopted in dealing with foreign affairs in recent years. It is a policy that is based on the following principles:

1. To hold on to the permanent and just peace for Egypt, for the brother countries that are part of the same nation and fundamental commitment, and for all countries of the world. We desire an international community where cooperation and brotherhood prevail, and where wars and elements of destruction and ruin disappear. Linked to this is our active participation in the efforts being made to limit the arms race and eliminate the weapons of total destruction which are threatening the present and future of humanity, as well as threatening to wreck all human construction and civilization in every continent.

Consequently, we warmly welcome the agreement in principle recently reached by the United States and the Soviet Union on the removal of medium- and short-range nuclear missiles from Europe. We hope that the two great powers will sign the agreement that makes this pledge a reality. We hope that understanding between them will then extend to the field of strategic weapons and will keep outer space out of reach of the arms race.

2. To marshal actions abroad to serve development aims and secure vital national interests. Now that the colonial era is behind us, the basic challenge facing nations, regardless of their circumstances and resources, is to improve their peoples' economic conditions and to achieve their economic independence. Without this, political independence cannot be complete and cultural independence cannot prosper. If we look at our foreign activities in recent years, we find that they have focused to a large extent on economic matters, and continue to do so.

This involves action to increase the volume of aid we get from friendly countries; the conclusion of agreements on trade exchange which benefit the national economy; attracting foreign parties to cooperate with us in modernizing the means of production in Egypt and introducing modern technology to industry, agriculture, and services. We are giving the utmost priority to this issue because its effects in development efforts in the country and in improving the quality of life in Egypt are immense, although many of us might not appreciate their extent and dimension.

3. To abide by a balanced and reasonable foreign policy that is linked to supreme national aims and strategic interests while ignoring marginal affairs. The application of this principle is represented both by the establishment of cooperation and cordial relations with all countries that respect our sovereignty and rights and by avoiding hostility with any country that does not threaten our national security or security interests. This step can be enhanced by avoiding information campaigns or verbal diatribes with all countries because facts will eventually come out and truth will prevail. History will not take notice of the recriminations and verbal abuses, for they will soon disappear into oblivion. What will remain are the major deeds that change the course of history and open the way for the future.

4. To strengthen solidarity with the countries that constitute the basic spheres of our interest, primarily the Arab, African, and nonaligned countries, and to seek to eliminate the causes of tension and disputes among these countries. This stems both from our conviction that there are no real contradictions in their interests and

from our realization of the great benefits that all these countries would receive by increasing their cooperation in all areas and eliminating causes of differences and disputes.

Perhaps it is appropriate in this context to submit to the dignified People's Assembly, Egypt's concept of its Arab role, which has been a topical issue in the past few years, and how relations among the fraternal Arab countries should be. Egypt's Arab role is determined by objective and scientific considerations; by enlightened awareness of the movement of history; by a specific view of nationalist goals; by rich assets of civilization and struggle; by political, economic, and cultural power; and by the ability to confront challenges.

Therefore, this role must not be determined by the views of this or that party or based on personal interests, ties, or needs. In sum, Egypt's role is to effectively contribute toward protecting the Arab world's national security, safeguarding its vital strategic interests, and cementing cooperation and cohesion among its peoples. In my opinion, this role requires the following:

1. The Arab countries should arrive at a common view of supreme national goals, particularly on how to safeguard the Arab nation's security and confront the dangers of this serious stage. The Arab countries should formulate a complete strategy for confronting these dangers, a strategy that all must adhere to, regardless of their differences.

2. To maintain the independence of the Arab will and to act to ensure Arab decisionmaking freedom. As long as there are foreign factors and alien influences that intervene in decisionmaking, then the resulting decisions will not be Arab in content, aims, or effects, regardless of the masks and slogans they hide behind.

3. To have every Arab country respect the principal charters that were meant to govern united Arab action from the time the Arabs came together in the wake of World War II. Foremost among these are the Arab League Charter and the Joint Arab Defense Pact. No fair man can deny that Egypt has always remained in the vanguard of Arab forces that have adhered to these charters. Egypt will remain loyal to them and protect them because it played the major role in bringing them into existence. Egypt also understands the reasons for adhering to them even if a minority of Arab governments deviate from them from time to time. [applause]

4. To have all Arab countries committed to the principle of mutual respect and noninterference in other countries' affairs. The Arab countries cannot ask the outside world not to interfere in their affairs if they themselves are the first ones to violate this commitment.

5. To have the Arab countries agree on a formula governing relations between them and other non-Arab countries in the region. We believe that this concept should be devoid of racism and racial and sectarian discrimination. It should reject claims of regional expansion, hegemony, domination, and theories of supremacy. [applause]

6. To work to strengthen the Arab front by deepening solidarity among the Arab countries by settling their disputes peacefully without resorting either to force or to foreign parties to play the role of referee, and without supporting one party against another. We are talking about solidarity at this stage because we believe that it is not practical, given present circumstances, to speak of immediate, comprehensive Arab unity. We must admit that many changes have taken place during the past 2 decades. This requires us to re-examine our views, to see if we are really serious in the ideas we propose and the slogans we propound. If we try to deceive anyone, we will only be deceiving ourselves.

7. To preserve the Arab nation's resources and to strengthen the development process in the entire Arab homeland. In the first place, we must avoid squandering and wasting Arab resources. We must also concentrate our efforts on exploiting our resources to serve long-term development aims, on absorbing modern technology quickly, and on adopting the most modern scientific production methods.

This also requires that the Arab countries give special priority to trade exchange and economic cooperation among themselves, as well as seek to achieve common interests between businesses and their employees. Without this, any talk about Arab solidarity would be devoid of any substance in an age where real unity has been achieved among countries in other parts of the world based on economic interests and the easing of exchange in various fields. This is our view of the factors that determine the Arab role.

Inasmuch as the other Arab countries are prepared to share with us in shouldering this responsibility in a collective and sound way, Egypt will never hesitate in assuming its role and carrying out its mission. This is because a role cannot be determined by only one party or stem from a vacuum. A role is part of an active movement based on mutual interests and on policies that agree on certain points.

If we turn to the current problems in the region, we must state that it is the duty of us all to work to end the war raging in the Gulf as soon as possible, before the momentum generated by the unanimous Security Council Resolution 598 subsides. It is clear that the effects of this bloody war are not confined only to the two warring countries, for this conflagration has spilled over and is threatening the security of neighboring countries, especially fraternal Kuwait. We support Kuwait with our hearts [applause] and resources in defending its territory, sovereignty, and the security of its sons.

In addition, this war was the reason behind the bloody incidents outside the Grand Mosque in Mecca that both desecrated the sanctity of that holy site in the land of Islam and constituted a challenge to the policy of the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Thus, it was natural that Egypt would immediately declare its support for the brothers in the Saudi Kingdom, which God honored by making it the guardian of the Holy Mosque.

The Gulf war and other major events in the region cannot divert our attention from the Palestinian issue and the need to promptly resume the march toward peace. Developments have shown that this problem, when left unresolved, only gets worse and increases tension and confusion in the entire region. We believe that there is no other alternative to the convocation of an international Middle East peace conference in the manner accepted by the entire international community, based on the participation of the five permanent Security Council members and the parties to the conflict, including the PLO. [applause]

One of the factors we can rely on in this respect is the close relationship between Egypt and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan [applause] and the deep understanding I constantly meet in my brother, His Majesty King Husayn, [applause] with whom I also met yesterday when we held a round of important talks as part of our periodic meetings to discuss all bilateral issues and important questions.

These relations are truly considered a living example of what relations within the one Arab family should be. I very much appreciate this firm and close relationship with this courageous leader of a fraternal Arab people who play a significant role in various Arab issues.

Furthermore, we will work to create suitable conditions for the PLO to play an effective role in this respect, because the interests of our brothers who live under occupation cannot tolerate inaction.

I cannot end my remarks about the situation in the Middle East without referring to fraternal Lebanon. Lebanon is still enduring the repercussions of the stormy and bloody events which it has experienced during the past 12 years. As we have repeatedly said, and continue to say, the effective solution of the Lebanese problem lies in saving Lebanon from foreign pressures and interference, and enabling its people to draw up an acceptable formula for the regulation of political life in this friendly country.

In concluding my remarks on foreign policy, I would like to note the good brotherly relations which exist between us and the fraternal African states [applause] and refer to the broad vistas of potential cooperation with them in all fields, particularly in economic affairs. This is because the countries of the glorious continent stand in the same trench with us in the battle for construction and development. Like us, they suffer from the burden of the debt problem and they face the challenge of increasing their production to meet the needs of their people who are multiplying at enormous rates.

The peoples of the African Continent have stood with us in all the battles we have fought, with honor and dignity. Therefore, we stand with them just as firmly in their struggle to get rid of the racist regime in the south and achieve the full and unconditional independence of Namibia. We also stand with them in the battle they are fighting to achieve a just solution to the debt problem.

Brothers and sisters, members of the People's Assembly, there is not enough time to go into detail or delve into all basic aspects. What I have outlined to you is a specific framework for public action, in which the people and their government share in the battle for development. Major problems have been dealt with by this method on the basis of past experience and, considering the difficulties and challenges surrounding us, without exaggeration. These are our aspirations and we are seeking to achieve a renaissance after an awakening.

Renaissance calls for colossal action; it requires unequivocal decisions, disciplined implementation, active, continuous followup, and supervision by the people to ensure a superior performance and the avoidance of mistakes. Hopes cannot be achieved by one man or a group that gives itself the privileges of superiority and the rights of an elite. All share in the achievement of these hopes, as they share in decisionmaking.

The democratic way in which a decision is made makes every citizen feel that he is a partner in this homeland and an active member in society, and that his opinion counts for something in the fateful issues. This produces general support for a decision, adherence to it, and defense of it.

A democratic decision is one which everyone carries out accurately and determinedly, with no sluggishness, indifference, or selfishness. It is not my custom to spread your path with flowers and I will not do so. Nor is it my custom to deceive you by uttering sugar-coated words or by raising false hopes. However, I have consistently explained to you and to the people through you our planned ambitions—together with all concomitant hindrances and obstacles—and I have told you that these are years of renaissance.

Renaissance simply means that we get up from our spectator seats and go to the fields of the workers. It means that we leave the ill-willed critics' circles and rise to the dreams of the toilers and strugglers. [applause] It also means that we abandon the opposition's logic of distortion, instigation, and loud voices in order to participate, convinced in what must be done, which itself is self-evident. If we all find fault in others and others see fault in us, then which of us will work, build, and

establish the pillars of the proper society? How can we rise when the accusations exchanged almost constitute a call for stagnation and a retreat from reaching for the stars?

The renaissance man is one who starts with himself. Let each of us start with himself instead of destroying the efforts of others. Let each of us be the judge of his own words and deeds instead of issuing unjust verdicts against others. [applause]

Brothers and sisters, we do not want to be taken unaware and inadvertently turn into a society of spiteful critics, for we are a society of builders. Spitefulness would turn mankind into a jungle. Egypt can be nothing other than the land of justice and fraternity since it is the land of heavenly messages. These are messages of light, goodness, proper conduct, and lofty ethics. Religion is a form of worship, as is work. Spiritual values and high morals protect and safeguard us during our pure march of work.

If we want a comprehensive educational renaissance, then let the education of the spirit accompany the education of the mind. Let the institutions of knowledge become the centers of building the new man. Knowledge without sound character will bear no fruit; no good will come of stuffing minds with useless information.

Our youth are a trust in our hands and we must not squander this trust. The young represent ability, vitality, purity, and hope. Our responsibility to our youth is not limited to providing job opportunities and opening new horizons; it goes beyond this to setting a good example.

We want our youth to feel that they live in a society of solidarity, not a society of becoming rich from the sweat of others; a society of mutual agreement, not one of material selfishness, greed, and excess; a society of cooperation between the able and unable because they all stand in the same trench facing the same challenges.

How wonderful it is to see many people of means rushing to build schools and hospitals at a cost of millions of pounds each. If these are called self-motivated solutions because they stem from one's self, I call them social solutions because they perform a positive role in spreading social justice.

We are opening many new doors for our youth. Everything we have accomplished in the first 5-year development plan and seek to accomplish in the second is for the sake of ensuring a dignified and stable life for our youth, who will assume the leading responsibility for development in the coming generation. But I have said before and I say today that the people with means must contribute to establishing social justice. It is one of the guarantees of stability. We must not forget or ignore the building of the renaissance.

A basic and important role must be played by culture and the arts: Culture is a torch that lights the way for learning the true history of our country so that we may stay linked with our cultural roots for the perpetuation of our development and glory, and not our collapse or downfall. Culture is the window opened to human and international struggle, defending mankind's right to an honorable life. Culture is the basic ingredient for building the social conscience, which contributes to enriching the positive social personality and protects society against attempts to mislead it.

In my opinion, there is no dividing line between the message of culture and the message of art. Art is the food of the spirit and mind and the product of man's creative ability. My appeal from this rostrum to the men of culture and art, persons whom we place, along with scientists, in the most prominent place, is to fulfill the message of renaissance. This will lead to continuous development, strengthened ties of affiliation, and a consolidated society of brotherhood, love, and social justice.

Brothers and sisters, I hope that I did not burden you with this long statement. [laughter and applause] But my excuse is that I have tried, in every way, to cover every point on our path of enlightenment toward building the renaissance. What I have said is a sincere call for sharing and for the rallying of forces around realistic goals in order to transfer them from hope to reality. It is a call for sincere cooperation and honest intention.

All efforts must be united in one line, the line of confrontation, and in one battle, the battle of building the renaissance. We must deal with our burdens by ourselves. It is a miserable nation that appeals to others to help in its own renaissance.

I pray that experience has taught us that our development is the target of many evil and oppressive forces. The first protection of our development is national unity. [applause] This unity is enhanced by dialogue, not vituperations; by the ethics of dealing with each other, not by vile attacks; by tolerance, not fanaticism. We want to maintain harmony even if we disagree.

We want to draw closer to each other while we engage in dialogue. We want to enhance our values, not destroy what is good in our tradition. We are able to build factories, institutions, and houses; we are able to use the most modern means of education; and we are able to confront all difficulties, but we must first be able to live together as brothers in one loving family. A brother does not stab his own brother, nor does he cheat and deceive his family members. Our family is Egypt and Egypt is our life and future. [applause]

If we, brothers and sisters, pride ourselves in the "made in Egypt" label, our first sense of pride comes from the fact that we were born in Egypt, live in Egypt, and share in Egypt's renaissance. [applause]

Throughout our long history, hundreds of thousands of people gave their lives and were martyred for the sake of Egypt. The least we can do is make sacrifices in work and effort, without selfishness or attempting to usurp the rights of others. The best thing we can do is to take stock of ourselves before attempting to bring others to account.

We are advocates of victory and progress. There is no place in the renaissance for advocates of defeatism. Our processions are advancing towards the broadest horizons, united by comradeship and motivated by the calls of faith, principle, and ideology; we are facing our problems by ourselves with dignity and honor, moving with preparedness and united in courage and strength.

Those who maintain a negative attitude will be left behind. They must realize that the calls of despair and defeatism will vanish and change in a society that has decided to surge forward. Everything depends on our willpower. If we wish, the conscience of the people will be the motivator and monitor. If we want, each citizen will rise to meet his natural ability and achieve his legitimate hope.

Yes, our hopes are ambitious, and perhaps even extremely so, but with our resources we are able to achieve the most ambitious of goals. Yes, our view of the near and distant future is optimistic, but it is not an unrealizable goal formulated without calculation, or a dream without reality. The only way to reach our goal is for us to rise up with a united will. I appeal to men and women of all ages, in the city and village, in the factory, institution, field, and farm, in the big or small house; I appeal to the people with all their factions and sects to spark the renaissance, to turn every area in our country into a beehive of activity and an army of love and solidarity, sharing in the grand procession toward meeting our great ambitions.

The people are the heroes in the battles of construction. This is because there can be no construction without builders. Together we shall face the huge challenges in the field, factory, and everywhere. We pledge to close our ranks, unite our efforts, and increase our contribution to achieve the great renaissance in all parts of our beloved country, Egypt. [applause]

The people, brothers and sisters, are the creators and protectors of freedom. There can be no freedom without a free people. I extend my hand to every free hand that works and builds. I extend my hand to all Egyptians in all positions and in all parties who work together to enrich the government of the people by the will of the people for the good of the people. I am aligned with them, and my alignment will remain with them. [applause] My loyalty is to the will of the people after the will of Almighty God. The will of the people is created by God.

I pledge to stand in the forefront to lead the work and follow up production and development everywhere. My pledge before the people and before you is to abide by the honesty of the mission, fulfilling it together and guided by the religious and spiritual values that stem from true faith.

May God give us insight as He gives us sight. May God guide us on the right road. May God bless us with His wisdom and mercy to help us endure hardships as we develop ourselves and our lives to fill honest souls with the light of faith for man's happiness. May God, who hears and answers our prayers, grant us success. May God's peace and blessing be upon you. [applause]

Libya

Klibi Gives Leader Amman Summit Invitation

LD152326 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2300 GMT 15 Oct

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received Brother Chedli Klibi, Arab League secretary general, following his tour of the Arab east in which he met President Hafiz al-Asad and King Husayn.

Brother Chedli Klibi (?informed) the brother leader of the revolution about the tour and handed him a written message from King Husayn which includes an invitation to the brother leader of the revolution to attend the Arab summit conference.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Palestinian Officials

LD151516 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received 'Isam al-Qadi, secretary general of the Organization of Vanguards of the People's Liberation War—the Al-Sa'iqah Forces, and Taysir Quba'h, member of the PFLP Politburo.

U.S. 'Experts' Reportedly Arrive in Chad

LD151246 Tripoli JANA in English 1134 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] Koutoanou, Al-Tumur [October] 15, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—Reliable Chadian sources reported that more American experts had arrived during the past two days to Ndjamena to be immediately distributed between camps to train Habre's forces to fire missiles, specifically the "Stinger" missiles, arrived in new quantities to Ndjamena recently.

The agent Habre, sources added, is also preparing these days to send divisions of his gang to be trained in Egypt on artillery and tankers usages.

Morocco

EC Commission President Delors Begins Visit

Makes Arrival Statement

LD081913 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GTM 8 Oct 87

[Text] Rabat, 8 Oct (MAP)—Jacques Delors, president of the EC Commission, has said that his visit to Morocco comes within the context of both the message from His Majesty King Hassan II to the EEC Council of Ministers Presidency requesting that Morocco be admitted to the EEC and the reply to the Moroccan request.

In a press statement upon his arrival in Rabat he expressed the belief that "there is a much to be done in order to get to know the distinctive Moroccan position in the world and in this region in particular, and also to find formulas that allow the common aspirations and friendship that should be strengthened and also the obligations of this or that side to be taken into consideration."

Asked on the possibility of talks between Morocco and the EEC on the cooperation agreement signed in Rabat in April 1976 resuming, Delors replied that he will be able to answer this question in 2 days. He recalled the context of this visit and explained that, despite differences in the positions that he now holds and those of the past, he still has the same sympathies for Morocco. He added that the content of the messages between the EEC and Morocco make it possible to expect a satisfactory outcome for both sides, but that there is also a need to separate those messages and the outstanding agreements.

Delors' visit to Morocco is his first to an African and Arab state since he became president of the EC Commission in 1984.

Holds News Conference

LD101943 Rabat MAP in English 1240 GMT 10 Oct 87

[Text] Rabat, Oct 10 (MAP)—President of the European Communities' Commission Jacques Delors held here Friday, at the end of a three day state visit, a press conference during which he said he was optimistic as to the future of Moroccan-EEC relations.

Delors underscored that "the exchange of letters between King Hassan II and the EEC is a new political deal where the problem is not related to the membership but rather to the question to know whether Morocco can participate, in a realistic honest and frank context, in the European construction undertaking".

"Beyond the economic, financial and commercial problems," Delors said, "there was the sovereign's appeal that some sum up as an application for [EEC] membership, but which in fact goes further than that".

The royal letter, Delors went on to say, questions European countries on the world as it stands now, on the world as it will be, and on the world as it should be. "And it is in this context that the twelve [EEC members] have answered King Hassan", the EEC official said.

After he stressed again the importance of this exchange of letters, Delors said the Community grants particular interest to all aspects of Moroccan-EEC cooperation including the financial, commercial and fishing sectors.

Delors who then dealt with the various phases of the EEC enlargement said "the problems we must now settle with Morocco, and which we will positively settle, are connected to the latest EEC enlargement to Spain and Portugal."

Delors concluded his press conference by reaffirming his personal commitment to restore in the few coming months, in a tangible way, the climate of confidence and trust that must normally exist between Morocco and the EEC.

Before flying to Marrakesh for a two day private visit, Delors attended the opening ceremony of the parliamentary fall session that was chaired by King Hassan II.

Departs 11 Oct

LD112352 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Mr Jacques Delors, chairman of the EEC Commission, departed Morocco this morning. [passage omitted]

Tunisian Minister Baccouche Begins Visit

Arrives 8 Oct

LD092008 Rabat MAP in English 1159 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Text] Casablanca, Oct 9 (MAP)—Tunisian Minister of Social Affairs Hedi Baccouche arrived here Thursday night on a visit to Morocco during which he is to confer with Moroccan officials and attend today the opening session of the fourth legislative year of the Moroccan parliament.

Baccouche, who was welcomed by Minister of Labor Hassan Abbadi and Tunisian Ambassador to Morocco Fouad Mebazaa, told the press President Habib Bourguiba of Tunisia asked him to convey greetings and best regards to King Hassan II and the Moroccan people.

Mebazaa and Moroccan Minister of Transports Mohamed Bouamoud earlier conferred on Moroccan-Tunisian cooperation in transport areas and friendly relations linking the two countries.

Meets With Premier Laraki

LD092013 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 9 Oct 87

[Excerpt] The visit of Hedi Baccouche, Tunisia's minister of social affairs, to Morocco was marked by a number of contacts today: He was received first by Premier Azzedine Laraki and then by the speaker of the house of representatives. There was also the signing of the minutes of the employment follow-up committee.

Mr Hedi Baccouche's talks with Dr Azzedine Laraki focused on the means for bolstering cooperation in various spheres between the two fraternal countries as well as vistas for mutual cooperation in the employment field in light of the follow-up committee's findings. The Tunisian minister also discussed with the speaker of the house of representatives means for consolidating relations between the two country's legislative bodies and reviewed the deep, brotherly ties between Morocco and Tunisia.

At the Ministry of Labor, the Tunisian minister of social affairs and Hassan Abbadi, the minister of labor, signed, following a working session attended by the two countries' delegations, the minutes of the employment follow-up committee.

The minutes dealt with cooperation between Morocco and Tunisia in the labor, employment, social security, and training fields; the exchange of expertise in these fields; and the topic of Maghreb communities in Europe to coordinate the two countries' stances when dealing with issues of the Moroccan and Tunisian colonies abroad. [passage omitted]

Makes Departure Statement

LD122137 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Oct 87

[Text] Hedi Baccouche, Tunisia's minister of social affairs, departed Morocco this morning at the conclusion of his visit to our country. During his visit, he was received by His Majesty King Hassan II and attended the opening session of the House of Deputies' new legislative year.

The Tunisian minister of social affairs and the Moroccan minister of labor signed the minutes of the follow-up committee which held meetings in Rabat over a period of 3 days to strengthen cooperation between the countries in the fields of work and labor.

In a statement made before departing Morocco, Hedi Boccouche announced that his visit enabled him to convey the greetings and appreciation of President Habib Bourguiba to his majesty the king, and that he discussed Tunisian-Moroccan relations and the situation in the Arab Maghreb region with his majesty.

He explained that these talks came within preparations to create suitable conditions for establishing Maghreb solidarity and removing all obstacles that obstruct the realization of the regional countries' aspirations to coordinate their potential and solidarity with each other.

He also said that his meeting with the prime minister and the speaker of the House of Deputies have always moved toward strengthening bilateral relations between Morocco and Tunisia, in a framework of action to create a joint and coordinated perception of the future.

He stressed that the agreement he signed with the minister of labor in the fields of work and social security constitues a basis to benefit the Arab Maghreb with a view to coordinating the regional countries' positions concerning issues of the Maghreb communities in Europe.

Sudan

Parties Issue Statements on Convoy Ambush

EA160958 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Oct 87

["Text" of statements issued by the Ummah Party and the Democratic Unionist Party regarding the 14 October rebel ambush of a relief train convoy in Bahr al-Ghazal Province; date and place of issuance not given]

[Excerpts] Statement from the Ummah Party to the masses of the Sudanese people:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful; may God send peace to the leader of the messengers. Respected citizens: Yesterday evening our Armed Forces issued a detailed statement concerning the treacherous attack on the relief train headed from Ariath station towards Uwayl. The attack was carried out by 4,000 troops belonging to the rebel stooge, John Garang. A group of our heroic soldiers and a number of civilian railway workers were martyred.

The Armed Forces confronted these gangs and inflicted major losses on them, with the remnants of the gangs fleeing to the forests to face their preordained fate of sorrow, disgrace, and degradation.

The Ummah Party condemns the rebel stooge movement's barbaric conduct, the aim of which is to deprive the citizens of relief supplies and expose southerners to death and hunger. Hundreds, even thousands, of them have been forced to flee due to the criminal and inhuman circumstances imposed on them by the rebel movement, its stepped-up looting and pillaging of citizens' property, and the resulting destabilization and insecurity.

The Ummah Party, in condemning this act, requests all political and mass forces to rise in support of the homeland, to stand in a united, impregnable rank with our Armed Forces and utilize every avenue to eliminate the rebellious soldiers and their leaders.

Some parties and groups continue to take advantage of the security prevailing inside the country to sympathize with and support the rebel movement. After the events in Ariath and previous events, when civilian planes and others were shot down, such behavior will be considered an act of treachery against the unity of the homeland.

We appreciate the efforts by certain quarters to bring the Sudanese people good news about serious work for a peaceful solution, including the latest attempt by some southern parties in Addis Ababa, Nairobi, and Kampala, as well as their statements and those by the stooge John Garang. Nevertheless, the result was that the rebellious movement showed its contempt for the Sudanese people and manifested its evil intentions by what it did at Ariath. [passage omitted]

The Ummah Party maintains its firm position that a peaceful solution is the only alternative for all the Sudanese people. The approach to the rebel movement must be clear: There is no room for entering into any type of agreement with it until it promises the Sudanese people and proves to the Armed Forces that it has completely given up all its criminal activities. The rebel movement must completely satisfy the Sudanese people that it is seriously seeking a peaceful solution, confirming this in words and deeds. [passage omitted]

Here is the statement from the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP]:

The Armed Forces General Command has reported the attack carried out by forces of the rebel John Garang on a convoy carrying food to citizens in Bahr al-Ghazal who are in dire need of sustenance. [passage omitted]

The DUP announces its firm support for peace and coexistence in the construction of the country and the achievement of a self-sufficient and just society based on great Islam. It thus condemns this aggression. The Party warns that the path followed by rebel John Garang's movement will only lead to increased bloodshed and the squandering of the Sudanese people's resources.

We stand behind our Armed Forces and our heroic soldiers; we firmly support them. They are working to overcome backwardness and hostility. We request our masses to be aware and form a solid front for work and construction in facing the conspiracies and hostility.

Victory and dignity for Sudan!

The Democratic Unionist Party.

National Radio, TV Officials 'Pensioned Off'

EA160854 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] The Council of Ministers issued a decree implementing the recommendation of the acting minister of culture and information [name not given] that Muawiyah Hasan Fadlallah, the director general of the National Radio and Television Corporation; Abbas Ahmad Husayn, director of television; and Muhammad Ibrahim al-Adil, the deputy director of television, be pensioned off. The decree takes effect today, 15 October 1987.

Tunisia

2 Islamic Fundamentalist Leaders Arrested

LD151450 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 15 Oct 87

[Text] Police in Tunisia have arrested two leaders of the Islamic Tendency Movement [ITM]. One of them was sentenced to death in absentia on September by the state's security court. For more information we now go to Tunis and to Karim Mersaoui:

[Mersaoui] Among the 90 fundamentalists convicted last month by the state's security court, 7 of whom were sentenced to death, 37 were sentenced in absentia. Now there are only 35 still at large.

In the last few hours 'Ali Laaridh, who was sentenced to capital punishment, and Fadel Beldi, who was sentenced to external labor, have been arrested by the police. Both of them were considered among the ITM's principal leaders.

The authorities have not provided any details on the circumstances or location of the arrest of the two condemned men, who at the time were at large.

'Ali Laaridh, who was wanted by the police for several months, had earlier from his hiding place granted a number of interviews to numerous foreign journalists in which he threatened the authorities with bloody reprisals should the fundamentalists be executed.

Laaridh and Beldi will have a second chance because Tunisian law allows a review of trials when verdicts are reached in absentia.

Inter-Gulf Affairs

French Navy Discovers Two Mines Near UAE

LD161201 Paris Domestic Service in French 1100 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] The French fleet in the Gulf yesterday discovered two mines near the UAE. This discovery brings to six the number of mines detected by the Navy's special group since it arrived in the Persian Gulf.

Kuwait

Reportage on Missile Strike on Reflagged Tanker

12 Crewmen Injured

LD160730 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0720 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, 16 October—A responsible source has stated that a U.S. oil by-products tanker at dawn today, in Kuwaiti territorial waters, was struck by a missile similar to that which hit a Liberian tanker yesterday.

The source told KUNA that the tanker involved, the *Sea Isle City*—formerly the *Umm al-Maradim*—is one of the 11 Kuwaiti oil tankers which Kuwait had reregistered in the United States following growing attacks on oil tankers and neutral commercial vessels in the Arab Gulf's waters.

The source pointed out that the missile struck the right side of the sailors' quarters, thus causing 12 casualties among the tanker's crew. The vessel belongs to the U.S. (?Chasebeck) Company, which specializes in transporting oil by-products.

The source affirmed that the 80,000-ton tanker was empty at the time of the attack and that while fire broke out on it, firemen managed to put the fire out.

The source said that the tanker was anchored 10 miles south of Al-Shu'aybah port, which is almost the same spot where the Liberian tanker was anchored when it was attacked by an Iranian missile that caused fires to break out on it.

Cabinet Discusses Attack

LD161015 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0950 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Oct—Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid [minister of state for cabinet affairs] has made the following statement:

This morning Iran carried out yet another action in its series of acts of aggression on Kuwait. It fired a missile that struck the U.S.-flagged oil tanker *Sea Isle City* in Kuwaiti territorial waters and injured its captain and 17 of its crew, some of whom suffered serious injuries, in addition to causing material damage.

Measures have been taken to treat the injured and to contain the incident.

Following these repeated serious acts of Iranian aggression against Kuwait, an emergency Cabinet meeting was held this morning at Al-Sha'b Palace. It was chaired by Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister.

The Cabinet reviewed the details, consequences, and dimensions of these acts of aggression and the ensuing escalation of tension in the region, as well as these acts' threat to regional security and stability—something that makes the international community face their responsibility to confront this grave escalation and contain its repercussions for the sake of establishing the desired peace.

The Cabinet also discussed appropriate steps and measures to be taken in light of this incident, as well as its dimensions.

Bahrain Offers Support

LD161108 Kuwait KUNA in English 1032 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 16 (KUNA)—His highness the crown prince and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah received a telephone call from Prime Minister of Bahrain Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman al Khalifah in which he expressed the support of Bahrain, its amir, government and people to Kuwait in the light of the repeated Iranian aggressions on Kuwait.

Iran 'Intent on Dragging' Nation Into War

LD160908 Kuwait KUNA in English 0807 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] Kuwait, Oct 16 (KUNA)—Two leading Kuwaiti newspapers expressed belief Friday that recalcitrant and desperate Iran is intent on dragging Kuwait into the inferno of the Iran-Iraq war, and they cited yesterday's Iranian missile attack on a Liberian tanker in Kuwaiti territorial waters.

"Hitting the tanker *Sungari* was a deliberate act of flaring up offshoot wars of the Iraq-Iran conflict, and stood witness to a dangerous development in Iranian policy towards Kuwait," commented the daily *Al-Qabas*.

Though supportive of Arab Iraq, Kuwait is a staunch proponent of peace not only in the Gulf region but the world at large, and is seeking neighborly relations with Iran, the paper went on.

Al-Qabas added that the Iranian attack on *Sungari*, in Kuwaiti territorial water, could have been designed to expand foreign naval intervention in the Gulf region to include the territorial waters of neutral Arab Gulf states.

"Against this background, the final Iranian aggression is soon coming, and proof to the contrary is lacking," the newspaper concluded. The daily *Al-Ra'y al-'Amm* emphasized that "the Iranian aggression on Kuwait had grossly exposed the scale of international indifference to the grave events in the Arabian Gulf region."

The missile attack, the paper added, represented a clear indication of Iran's obdurate rejection of all peace calls including U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 demanding a ceasefire and subsequent peace talks.

"The fresh Iranian aggression on Kuwait, and the wanton massacre of Iraqi school children in an Iranian rocket attack on Baghdad underlined the need to draft mandatory sanctions at the U.N. against the Tehran regime," the newspaper went on.

"Tough and practical measures are needed to bridle Iranian insolence and aggression on non-belligerent Gulf states," the paper added.

AL-Ra'y al-'Amm expressed belief that differences between the five big powers of the U.N. Security Council is encouraging Tehran's war efforts.

"Let no more time be wasted by the shuttle diplomacy of U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and others. The key to resolving the conflict is with the countries which could affect Iranian oil sales and arms procurement," the paper concluded.

Attack May Widen War

LD161154 Kuwait KUNA in English 1035 GMT 16 Oct 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Oct 16 (KUNA)—A local daily newspaper Friday said the call made by Kuwait on the international community to shoulder its responsibility by deterring Iranian aggressions should be received with due attention by the United Nations and the Security Council.

Al-Ittihad newspaper said the missile attack on a Liberian oil tanker in Kuwaiti territorial waters is a dangerous incident that has been carried out on the eve of the tour by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz that will end in Moscow, where the Iran-Iraq war is sure to be on the agenda.

The newspaper emphasized the importance of a serious and responsible effort toward bringing the Iran-Iraq war to an end.

The paper added that the Kuwaiti call for speeding up efforts for the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 598 "is a fair demand" because what happened against Kuwait yesterday carried signs of the danger of spreading the war as had been cautioned by the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states.

The paper concluded saying that the threat of spreading the war has been posing with every day passing without putting an end to the fighting, that is currently in its 8th year, and without seizing the international attention it deserves.

Oman

Information Minister on Gulf War, Mediation

JN141904 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 13 Oct 87 pp 1, 21

[Interview with Minister of Information 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rawwas by Sayyid 'Uthman in Muscat—date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Uthman] Recent indications are that Oman has been nominated for the role of mediator to avert an expansion of the Gulf war, in preparation for a comprehensive resolution to this war. Is there a possibility of launching such an initiative at present?

[Al-Rawwas] I would like to affirm at the beginning that it is natural for Oman to have normal and close relations with all of its neighbors, based on ties of joint destiny and historical and geographical considerations. These make it inevitable for us to establish relations with our neighbors, relations that will open the way for dialogue to know our problems. There should be open bridges so that we do not rely on external mediators who do not care about our interests and who might ruin mediation efforts.

In view of all this, his majesty the sultan's government is endeavoring to stop this war, a conflict we greatly regret since it destroys both countries' economies and destroys Muslim lives. Our religious teachings say that believers are brothers, that they should not fight one another. Therefore, in cooperation with our GCC brothers, we are endeavoring to promote dialogue and find effective means of disengaging Iraq and Iran.

Omani policy is based on firm principles. We are an Arab, Islamic, Gulf state and an active member of the international community. All these considrations are interconnected and cannot be separated. Therefore, we are employing all our resources and efforts to find an effective, speedy means of ending the war, which has destroyed efforts of 25 years of work in the two warring countries. Only the enemies of these countries and the region benefit from this war.

As for mediation efforts, we would like to note that these efforts will succeed only if the two warring sides accept mediation. We will not hesitate to play a mediatory role if we are asked to do so.

['Uthman] Does this mean that there is an actual intention to start this mediation to end the state of tension and avoid the war's expansion?